

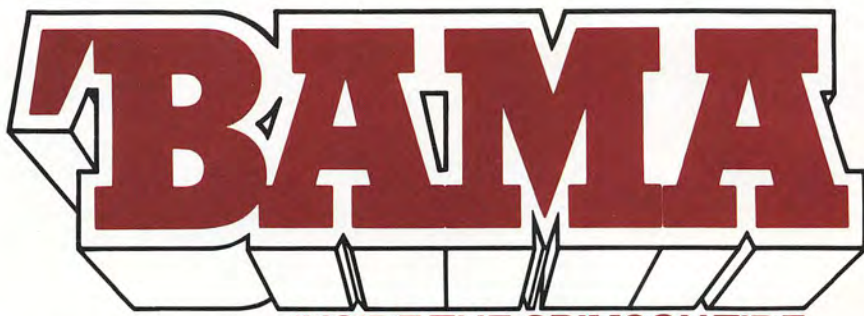
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SEPTEMBER, 1992

VOLUME 11, NUMBER 7

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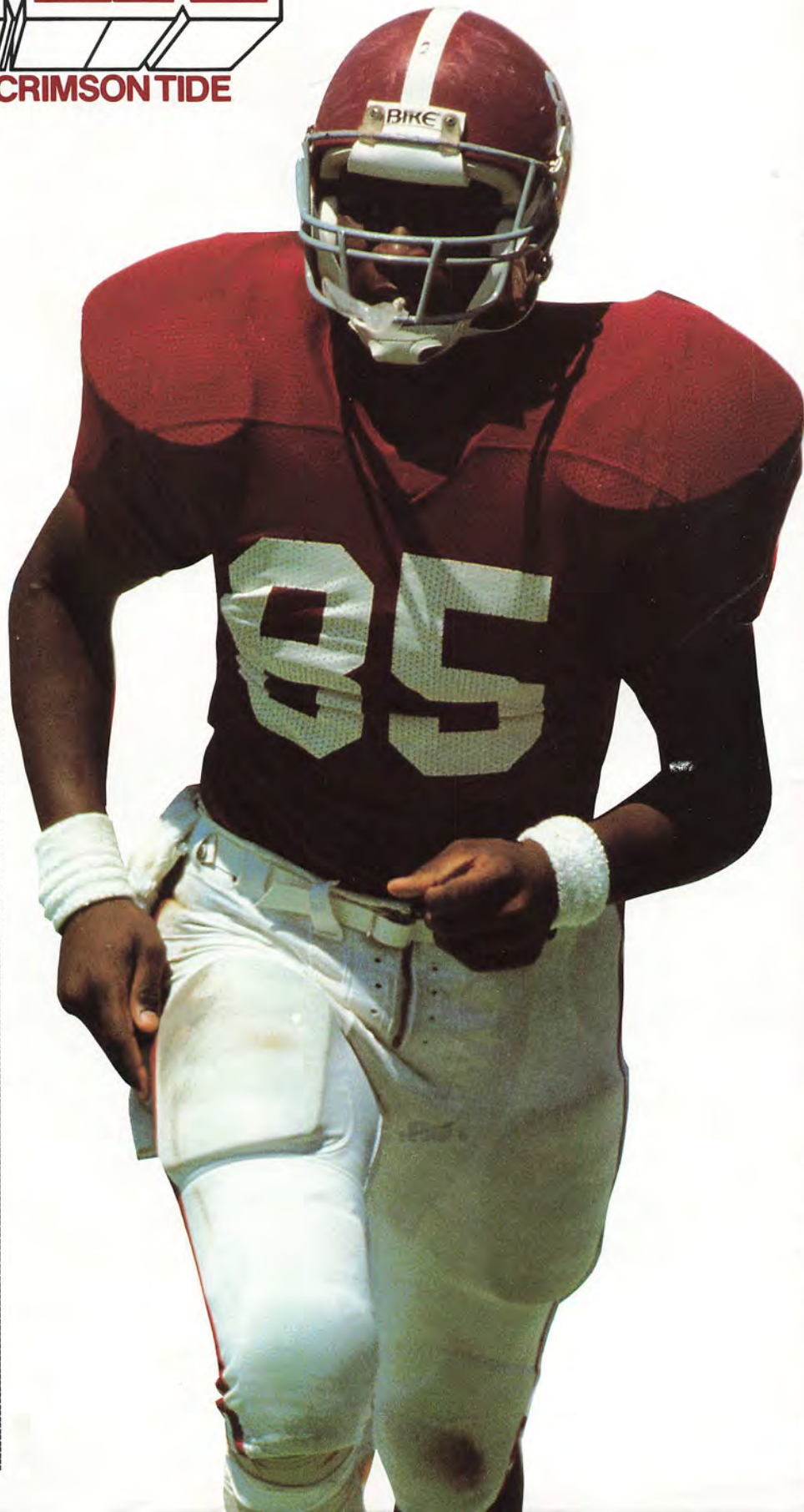
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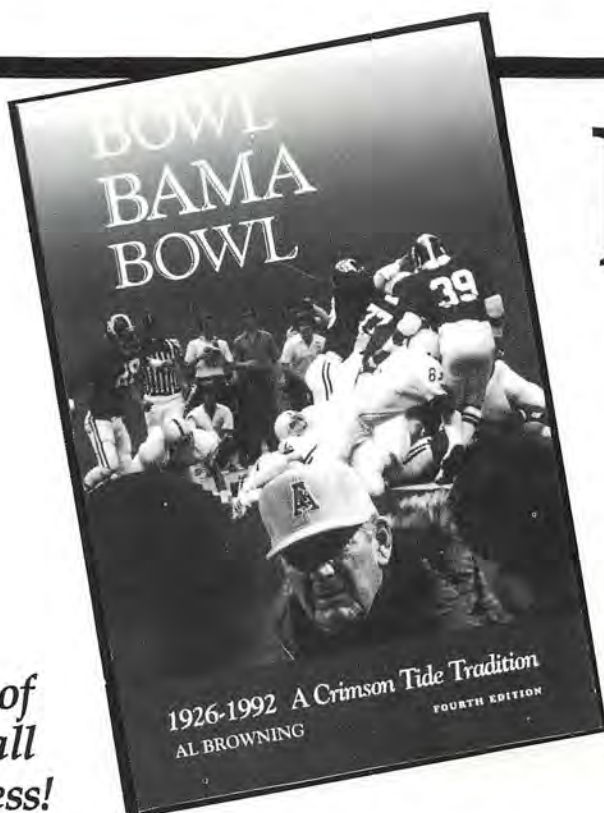
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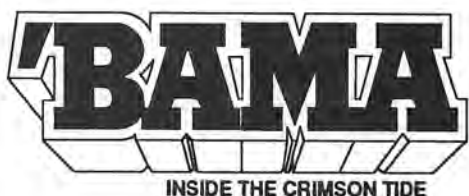
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INSIDE THE CRIMSON TIDE

SEPTEMBER, 1992

VOLUME 14, NUMBER 7

CONTENTS

Alabama Football Centennial cover design by Bob Gager



Page 6

1992 Football Outlook: Tide Has Reasons For Optimism

6

Although Alabama Head Coach Gene Stallings has preached that Bama is probably a year away from where he wants the football team to be, everything points to this team having the potential to put the plan ahead of schedule. National and conference preseason polls agree this will be a very good team.

by Kirk McNair

Sam Shade: Making An Impact Early

12

Sam Shade showed as a true freshman last year that he could make a contribution to Alabama football. This year he wants to improve and he has that potential. He's listed as Bama's starting strong safety going into the season.

by John Barnes



Page 14

Steve Busky: He Wants To Be More Involved

14

Tight end Steve Busky has been an important cog in the Alabama offense, but it has been primarily as a blocker. This year Bama plans to involve him more as a pass receiver, which suits Busky just fine.

by Donald F. Staffo

David Palmer: Don't Look For Soph To Slump

16

Not many freshman football players have the success David Palmer enjoyed in his first year as a Tider. This year expect more of the same, only better. . . if that's possible. Bama's outstanding "Duece" will be back as a pass catcher, runner, kick returner, and, possibly, quarterback in 1992.

by Tommy Deas



Page 16

Hootie Ingram: The State Of The Tide

20

Alabama Director of Athletics Hootie Ingram sees good things ahead for the Crimson Tide's overall sports program. He cites improvement in performance and recruiting and a strong academic counseling program. And he's also cautiously optimistic that a potential problem, the push for gender equity in college athletics, will be settled sensibly.

by Kirk McNair

The Graduates: Six Tiders Are Already Alumni

24

Although everyone says the purpose of athletes going to college is to get an education, national statistics show that doesn't always happen. This year Alabama will have six players who have graduated before their eligibility is complete.

by Barbara Butler



Page 24

Volleyball Outlook: A Special Year For Seniors

26

Four years ago Alabama reinstated its women's volleyball program. Six women, three of them walkons when they started, have stuck with the program from its beginning. Tide Coach Dorothy Franco-Reed credits them with the progress that has been made and the optimism she has for 1992.

by Becky Hopf

The Departments

Football Roster	10
Football Recruiting	23
Scorecard	28
1993 Basketball Schedule	29
Football Opponents' Schedules	30

Tide Has Reasons For Optimism

by Kirk McNair

There are a few questions, but overall experience and skill makes future bright

Over the next couple of months you are going to be hearing a question: Are you better off today than you were four years ago? Few would argue that Alabama's football program is not better off. As the start of the 1992 season nears, Alabama is in the national championship picture, something that hasn't happened since Ronald Reagan had a touch of gray in his hair.

Alabama has not seriously challenged for the national title since winning its last one, in 1979. There have been good teams and good records along the way, notably last year's 11-1 squad that finished fifth in the nation, but none of the teams since 1979 has really been in the national championship hunt when it counted, at the end of the year. (It is a measure of Alabama's successful tradition that this "failing" over the past 12 years includes eight top 20 and four top 10 final rankings.)

Most preseason polls have Alabama in the second five of the top 10. One computer poll had Bama well down the list, but another—that of *The New York Times*—had the Tide first. The most recognized poll, that of the Associated Press, has Alabama ninth in the preseason.

Rest assured that Alabama Head Coach Gene Stallings is not talking national championship. He chides the press regularly for predicting Bama will win the Southeastern Conference West Division. Stallings' chief complaint is the Tide's inexperience at the quarterback position. No one would suggest that Bama has an abundance of experience with Jay Barker having seen meaningful playing time in only six games, and his backups having no college football experience. Nevertheless, Barker improved as last season went along, he quarterbacked winning games, he had a great ending to the season with his three touchdown passes in the second half of the Blockbuster Bowl, and he got better last spring and has improved this fall. Beyond that, number one backup, Brian Burgdorf, is over the shoulder injury that limited him last year, and number three, Chad Key, has good size and a rifle for an arm.

(Although it is not what he wants to do,



Alabama Head Coach Gene Stallings isn't suggesting a national championship.

certainly not on a regular basis, there is one other guy in camp who can be effective from the quarterback position: wide receiver David Palmer. Bama works for a short time each day with Palmer at quarterback.)

There is strong evidence from practice that Alabama will open up its offense this year. It is not that the coaches, Stallings and Quarterback Coach Mal Moore, have just learned some new plays, or that they weren't aware Bama was ultraconservative in 1991. In order to implement a passing game, there must be more experience than Alabama had last year. The lack of experience was not just at quarterback: of more importance was the inexperience in the offensive line.

Stallings said that Alabama would aim to have at least 175 yards in passing offense this year, which is hardly turning Alabama into BYU, but which would be a substantial gain over last year's 137 yards per game.

Most attention in the passing game is on the quarterback and receivers, but there isn't going to be a passing game if the offensive linemen can't protect the passer. Pass blocking may be the most difficult technique to teach college football players. Last year Bama had a young offensive line, one that did not particularly distinguish itself (although Bama led the

SEC and was eighth in the nation in rushing offense, so the line must have been doing something right). Everyone who started on the offensive line last year returns this year. Some might consider that a good new-bad news situation: the good news is they are all back, the bad news is they weren't very good. But experience is of utmost importance in offensive line play, in part because the line must operate as a unit. Through the spring there was noticeable improvement in the offensive line. In early fall work, Stallings was less satisfied. However, the offensive line should be at least adequate and has a chance to be very good.

It has been said that the difference in very good teams and great teams is that great teams have an exceptional offensive line. The line of scrimmage is the critical yardage in football and if Alabama can control the line of scrimmage both the passing and running games will be good. There is a likelihood of some change in the offensive line from last year. Jon Stevenson, who started at right tackle as a true freshman, has been moved to what coaches believe is a better position for him, right guard. That dropped last year's starter, William Barger, into a backup role and moved Roosevelt Patterson (who started a few games) up to number one at right tackle. Sophomore Joey Harville, who was a backup at left tackle last year, is now the number two right tackle.

Tobie Sheils has made a number of preseason All-SEC teams at center. That may be partly because there are only a few returning starters at center, none of them highly-touted. But Sheils, who played last year at about 245, is up to about 260 this year, and he has the advantage of having practiced for two years against former Tide nose tackle Robert Stewart. Alabama has tried a number of different players at backup. Chad Gladden is bigger and stronger than in the past. Bama also signed a junior college transfer, Dennis Deason. But the top candidate appears to be an outstanding athlete, redshirt freshman Tim Barnett, who has also been looked at as a tight end and offensive tackle.

Bama returns the top two men at left guard, gutsy George Wilson (who, incidentally, is the only starting Tide offensive lineman who won't return next year), and his backup, former linebacker John Clay. Although he is just a junior, Matt Hammond will be starting for the third year at left tackle. Senior Johnny Howard, who has been known primarily as a snapper on placekicks, has moved up to number two. A handful of redshirted sophomores and freshmen provide additional depth. Bama should be deep enough that no freshmen signees have to play in the

offensive line, but if any are pressed into action the smart money would be on Jeremy Pennington at tackle and Maurice Belser at guard.

Tight end is almost an offensive line position. Steve Busky is back to start his third year. Most expected redshirt freshman Tony Johnson to really push Busky, perhaps even beat out the senior, but Busky came back in better shape than Johnson and has easily held on to his job. Although signee Kris Mangum appears ready to play, Bama would like to hold him out rather than have him as the third tight end. If Matthew Pine, who thus far has done nothing but snap on long punts, can block well enough, the Tide will be able to redshirt Mangum. Pine has worked hard to make himself bigger and stronger.

If the Alabama quarterback gets the time he needs to pass, he'll have the receivers. Flanker David Palmer is already a legend before he begins his sophomore season and Curt Brown would start at split end for just about any team in the nation. Neither of them is listed as a starter. Senior Prince Wimbley is the number one flanker and the team's fastest player, Kevin Lee, is the starting split end. And if it's needed, there is more than adequate depth behind those. Freshman Marcel West has been impressive, but he will be redshirted.

Bama lost both starting running backs from last year and they are not insignificant losses, but there is quality in the running back corps. What there is not is quantity. When Irving Spikes was academically ineligible to return and signee Tim Watts was ineligible to enter Alabama, the Tide fullback spot became very shallow. Martin Houston, who was injured through most of the spring, came back in excellent condition and is clearly number one at fullback. Tide coaches have been impressed as much by his blocking as by his powerful running. Behind him there are question marks. Tarrant Lynch has not appeared as quick as he did last spring, in part because he has had a bad ankle, in part because he may be a little too heavy. Craig Harris has worked very hard, but it is difficult to overcome knee surgery, which Harris had last spring. Signee Eric Turner is better than advertised, but not bigger than advertised and would be a small fullback. One walkon, sophomore Harold Swopes, has been impressive, but he, too, is small.

Senior Derrick Lassic has waited for his chance to be Alabama's tailback, and he'll get that opportunity this year. But Lassic is considered about an even bet to be hurt during the year because he runs so hard, resulting in body-punishing collisions. Tide opponents won't get to relax when Lassic is out, however. Chris Anderson, a starter two years ago when he was about a 145-pounder, is back this year at about 180 and has been at least as impressive as Lassic through last spring and this fall. And the third tailback, Sherman Williams, isn't bad. However, there are only three.

Last year Alabama lived by its defense and parts of the kicking game. The Tide lost some outstanding performers from the defense—nose tackle Robert Stewart, outside linebacker Steve Webb, inside linebacker John Sullins, and defensive backs Mark McMillian and Stacy Harrison. However, the ones returning, along with some newcomers, appear to have the defense improved this season. That means improving one of the nation's best defensive units.

Just as controlling the line of scrimmage is critical for offensive success, the defense that can control it makes a good start at stopping the opposing offense. Alabama would seem to have the stuff to stop anyone. More than one professional scout has suggested that no team in the nation has a pair of ends more formidable than Alabama's. Both right end Eric Curry and left end John Copeland are preseason All-SEC picks and both are expected to be picked for other honors and for football at the next level at the end of this season. Bama did lose Stewart, but Defensive Line Coach Mike Dubose has unabashedly predicted that James Gregory will be a more effective nose tackle than was Stewart.

While teaching offensive linemen to pass block is considered the most difficult coaching job, finding defensive linemen is considered the most difficult recruiting job.

Bama has done its recruiting. The number one backup man on the defensive line isn't considered second team by Tide coaches. Jeremy Nunley can play any of the three positions and can play well enough that he would be a starter almost anywhere. Dameian Jeffries is still learning the end position after switching from outside linebacker last year, but he has great potential. The team's biggest man, Bryan Thornton, is another end with potential. Versatile Van Bodden and much-improved Jason Milner provide depth at end. The backups at nose tackle include Elverett Brown and Shannon Brown. No freshman is likely to play this year, but end Ozell Powell and nose tackle Laron White will play in the future.

The nearest thing to a problem area is inside linebacker, primarily because of a lack of numbers. Derrick Oden, a returning starter, is a quality player, and Michael Rogers had a very good spring at the other spot. Mario Morris has had his problems in the past, but had a good spring and a good fall and has moved about even with Rogers. Redshirt freshman Jeff Torrence has had a good fall, too. Inside linebacker is a spot where a freshman could see action and several have done well. Best bet for playing time among the freshmen linebackers based on early work is John Walters, but John Tanks, Kelvin Moore



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Defensive end John Copeland is one of the primary reasons Alabama should once again be an outstanding defensive team.

and Lamont Floyd have also been impressive.

The outside linebacker spots are also considered thin in numbers, but the Tide got a boost late last season when Lemanski Hall came on strong at the weakside spot. Antonio London on the strong side is a preseason all-star. The Tide got another boost when André Royal, who had been suspended last semester, did all he was supposed to do in the classroom and elsewhere to rejoin the team. He is a future star and can play on either side. Yet another boost was Will Brown, like Hall and Royal a former strong safety, remaining academically eligible for this fall. There had been a concern he wouldn't make it. And he has taken very well to his new position, where he worked last spring. Here's another spot where a freshman-Darrell Blackburn-could get playing time.

One of the best things Alabama has going is Secondary Coach Bill Oliver. (And it doesn't hurt that Tide Head Coach Gene Stallings was a longtime coach of defensive backs.) Alabama uses very complicat-

ed secondary schemes, which puts a premium on quick recognition and reaction by the defensive backs. Oliver has a handful capable of getting the job done, although the first serious injury of the year took away one of the brightest new faces.

Bama can be two deep at each of the four defensive backfield positions without having eight players. That's because several players can play more than one position. Chris Donnelly, the transfer from Vanderbilt who is eligible this year, can play either safety spot, Sam Shade can either play strong safety or cornerback, and George Teague can play corner or either safety position. Those three are in the rotation. Antonio Langham, a starter last year as a sophomore, will be at right cornerback, while Teague will be at left corner. Last year Teague led the SEC with six interceptions while Langham was second in the league with five. Shade will start at strong safety and, in most cases, Donnelly will start at free safety. There could be times when cornerback Tommy Johnson, who is a backup cornerback and the nickel

back, could be a starter because he is faster than Donnelly.

The sixth man in the rotation was expected to be freshman safety Blair Canale, but Canale was lost for the year with a knee injury in a preseason scrimmage. Another newcomer, cornerback Willie Gaston, who sat out because of academics last year, could be utilized, as might veteran safety Willis Bevelle and walkon senior cornerback Alvin Hope.

Midway through the 1990 season, Tank Williamson took over punting duties and rescued Bama from a struggle in that phase of the kicking game. Williamson has gone now and the new punter is likely going to be redshirt freshman Bryne Diehl.

However, there's a lot more interest in who might be the placekicker. Although Bama returns most of those who gave it a try last year, Stallings was never comfortable with the situation. (After one particularly woeful practice last season, one of the placekickers told Stallings, "Coach, it makes me nervous when you watch me kick." Stallings said, "Well, son, I plan to be at every game.") Stallings and Bama fans should have more confidence in placekicking this year. High school All-America Michael Proctor appears to be worthy of the accolades he won at Pelham High School the past couple of years. And another freshman, walkon Wade Roe of Tuscaloosa, has also been impressive.

Both snappers, Matthew Pine on punts and Johnny Howard on placekicks, return, as does holder Jeff Wall.

Overall good team speed should mean that coverage and return teams are good. Bama has reason to have high hopes in the punt return game since David Palmer returns after a record-setting freshman year in that job.

Tide Notes—One player with eligibility remaining, tight end Chris Cochran of Germantown, Tennessee, graduated in May and elected not to return to Bama this fall. He was listed number three on the depth chart.

Two Tiders—defensive lineman Chuck Aaron and defensive back Darren Greenwood—were forced to give up football because of injuries. Both remain in school on scholarship.

As predicted, four Alabama football signees were not eligible for participation this fall. Defensive end Kendrick Burton of Hartselle and wide receiver Toderick Malone of Attalla Etowah, are enrolled at Alabama, paying their own way, and can earn eligibility for football as sophomores next year by passing 24 hours of class work. Defensive back Renardo McCoy of Hazlewood reportedly will re-take his national test and, if he passes, re-sign with Alabama in December. He, too, would be eligible for football as a sophomore beginning next fall. The other signee, fullback

Tim Watts of Selma Southside, has reportedly enrolled in junior college in Mississippi, as did 1991 signee linebacker Gari Jackson of Mobile Murphy.

One 1992 signee, linebacker Chris Simmons, left the team before contact practices began. He said he intended to remain at Alabama, majoring in engineering.

Three walkons received scholarships this year. Chad Key was awarded a scholarship at the end of the spring semester, while Jeff Wall and Matthew Pine were presented scholarships prior to fall drills.

There have always been family ties among Alabama football players. This year's team, for instance, includes tight end Jason Abrams, brother of former tight end Charlie, and freshman tight end Kris Mangum, brother of former Tide defensive back John Mangum. A walkon placekicker is Ray Jack, son of Stallings' administrative assistant, Gerald Jack, and brother of former Bama baseballer Gary. Beyond that, the walkons included some cousins of current players: running back Frankie Wheeler, cousin of Dameian Jeffries; strong safety Reggie Brown, cousin of Elverett Brown; and fullback Syd Woody of Springville, cousin of Rock Woody. Another interesting family connection among the Tide walkons is offensive guard Chris Sidle of Pleasant Grove. He's the son of former Auburn star Jimmy.

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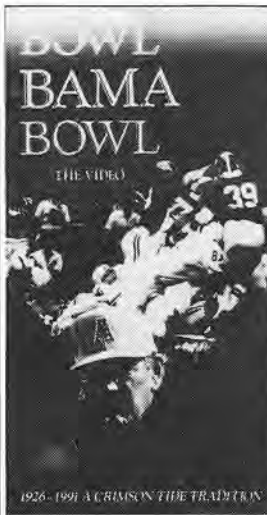
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No.	Name, Pos.	Cl.	Hgt.	Wgt.	Exp.	Hometown	No.	Name, Pos.	Cl.	Hgt.	Wgt.	Exp.	Hometown
1	Marcell West, WR	Fr.	5-11	175	HS	Niceville, Fla.	47	Jackson Lowery, SS	So.	6-2	195	Sq	Huntsville
2	David Palmer, FL	So.	5-9	170	1L	Birmingham	48	Jay Brannen, OLB	So.	6-1	218	Sq	Gainesville, Fla.
*2	Stan Moss, P	Sr.	6-3	192	Sq	Brent	*48	Steve Cole, PK	Jr.	5-9	162	1L	Fayetteville, Ga.
*2	James Tuley, PK	Jr.	5-10	200	Sq	Montgomery	50	Dustin Wright, C	Fr.	6-2	270	HS	Northport
3	Michael Proctor, PK	Fr.	5-11	175	HS	Pelham	*50	Don Dover, C	Sr.	6-2	254	Sq	Birmingham
4	Mickey Conn, CB	So.	5-10	175	Sq	Snellville, Ga.	*50	Howie Fell, ILB	Fr.	6-1	225	Sq	Birmingham
*4	Matt Wethington, PK	So.	5-11	170	1L	Titusville, Fla.	51	Laron White, NT	Fr.	6-2	260	HS	Courtland
5	Tony Johnson, TE	Fr.	6-1	240	Sq	Como, Miss.	52	Michael Rogers, ILB	So.	6-1	220	1L	Luverne
*5	Tracy High, LCB	Fr.	5-9	175	HS	Pontotoc, Miss.	*52	Chris Sidle, OG	Fr.	6-2	248	HS	Pleasant Grove
6	Willis Bevelle, SS	Sr.	6-1	180	2L	Bessemer	53	Jeff Torrence, ILB	Fr.	6-1	215	Sq	Atmore
*6	Hayden Stockton, FB	Fr.	6-0	190	HS	Double Springs	*53	Darrell Smith, C	Fr.	6-2	265	HS	Munford
7	Jay Barker, QB	So.	6-3	209	1L	Trussville	54	Chad Gladden, C	So.	6-3	254	1L	Centre
8	Jason Jack, QB	So.	6-1	180	Sq	Oxford	*54	Anthony Dowdell, OLB	Fr.	6-1	215	HS	Columbus, Ga.
9	Alvin Hope, LCB	Sr.	5-10	187	1L	Mobile	55	Antonio London, OLB	Sr.	6-3	228	3L	Tullahoma, Tenn.
*9	Ray Jack, PK	Fr.	6-3	215	Sq	Ft. Worth, Tex.	*55	Jason Turner, OG	Fr.	6-0	265	HS	Ruston, La.
*9	Joel Borden, QB	Fr.	6-2	200	HS	Ft. Lauderdale	56	Derrick Oden, ILB	Sr.	6-0	225	3L	Tuscaloosa
10	Tommy Johnson, LCB	So.	5-10	175	1L	Niceville, Fla.	*56	Mike Favors, OG	Fr.	6-2	272	Sq	Mobile
*10	Heath Smith, PK	Fr.	5-8	215	HS	Brookwood	57	Lamont Floyd, ILB	Fr.	6-2	240	HS	Orange Park, Fla.
11	Lemanski Hall, ROB	Jr.	6-1	220	2L	Valley	*57	John Wall, OG	So.	6-2	276	Sq	Niceville, Fla.
*11	Wade Roe, PK	Fr.	5-11	174	HS	Tuscaloosa	58	Mario Morris, ILB	So.	6-0	220	1L	Decatur
12	J.J. Adams, P	So.	6-1	165	Sq	Katy, Tex.	*58	Kirk Lawson, OT	So.	6-5	270	Sq	Florence
*12	Bryne Diehl, P	So.	6-3	202	Sq	Oakman	59	John Clay, OG	Jr.	6-2	265	2L	Nashville
*12	Jeremy Downey, FS	Fr.	6-0	205	HS	Irvington	*59	Thad Turnipseed, OLB	So.	6-0	201	Sq	Montgomery
13	George Teague, FS	Sr.	6-2	187	3L	Montgomery	60	Joey Harville, OT	So.	6-5	276	1L	Moulton
*13	Mark Grobe, QB	Fr.	6-1	200	HS	Cullman	61	Tobie Shells, C	Jr.	6-3	261	2L	Fairhope
14	Brian Burdorf, QB	Fr.	6-1	175	Sq	Cedartown, Ga.	62	William Barger, OG	Jr.	6-3	270	2L	Birmingham
*14	Jason West, CB	Fr.	5-8	160	Sq	Tuscaloosa	63	Matt Hammond, OT	Jr.	6-3	266	2L	Ft. Payne
15	Donnie Finkley, SE	Sr.	5-10	175	2L	Mobile	64	Maurice Belser, OG	Fr.	6-2	285	HS	Cordova
*15	Michael Ausmus, CB	Fr.	5-9	170	Sq	Mobile	65	Napoleon Folks, OG	So.	6-3	288	Sq	Montgomery
16	Jeff Wall, H/CB	Sr.	5-7	160	3L	Birmingham	66	Tim Barnett, C	Fr.	6-5	263	Sq	Bear Creek
*16	Shane Crask, QB	Fr.	6-4	198	HS	Athens	67	Dennis Deason, C	Jr.	6-3	272	Tr	Vestavia
17	Will Brown, OLB	So.	6-1	200	1L	Syracuse, N.Y.	*67	Scott Mullenix, OG	Jr.	6-4	275	Tr	Jacksonville, Fla.
*17	Cedric Smith, FL	Fr.	5-8	160	HS	Marietta, Ga.	68	George Wilson, OG	Sr.	6-2	263	2L	Bessemer
19	Chad Key, QB	Fr.	6-4	201	Sq	Parrish	69	Jon Stevenson, OG	So.	6-2	273	1L	Memphis
20	Sherman Williams, RB	So.	5-10	190	1L	Mobile	70	Rory Segrest, OT	Fr.	6-5	265	Sq	Waycross, Ga.
21	Chris Donnelly, S	Jr.	6-0	180	Sq	Germantown, Tenn.	71	John Causey, OL	Fr.	6-3	260	HS	Hayneville
*21	Brian Boyington, RB	Fr.	5-11	185	HS	Sterrett	*71	Bart Pritchett, DE	Sr.	6-1	249	Sq	Mobile
22	Willie Gaston, CB	So.	5-11	180	HS	Mobile	72	Pete DiMario, OT	Fr.	6-5	270	HS	Tuscaloosa
*22	David Buckner, WR	Fr.	5-11	170	HS	St. Louis	73	Jeremy Nunley, DE	Jr.	6-5	273	2L	Winchester, Tenn.
23	Frankie Wheeler, FB	Fr.	5-11	190	HS	Sylacauga	74	Kareem McNeal, OT	Fr.	6-5	287	Sq	Tuskegee
24	Blair Canale, S	Fr.	6-3	190	HS	Memphis	75	Johnny Howard, OT	Sr.	6-4	270	3L	Bessemer
25	Derrick Lassie, RB	Sr.	5-11	186	3L	Haverstraw, N.Y.	76	Elverett Brown, NT	So.	6-4	261	1L	Montgomery
*25	Alex Jordan, S	Jr.	6-0	188	1L	Hueytown	*76	Jeff McCullough, C	Fr.	6-4	255	Sq	Oneonta
27	Danny Davis, SS	So.	6-1	205	Sq	Memphis	77	Roosevelt Patterson, OT	Jr.	6-4	290	1L	Mobile
28	Reggie Brown, SS	Fr.	5-10	180	HS	Montgomery	*77	John Phillips, NT	Sr.	6-1	265	Sq	Atlanta
29	Rock Woody, CB	So.	5-10	180	1L	Springville	78	Ozell Powell, DE	Fr.	6-5	245	HS	Greenville
30	Craig Harris, FB	Sr.	5-11	205	3L	Panama City, Fla.	*78	Troy Bell, OG	Fr.	6-0	260	HS	Montgomery
31	Sam Shade, SS	So.	6-1	190	1L	Birmingham	79	Jeremy Pennington, OT	Fr.	6-3	270	HS	Vernon
*31	Marcus Moring, FB	So.	6-2	215	Sq	Excel	80	Eric Curry, DE	Sr.	6-7	255	2L	Thomasville, Ga.
32	Prince Wimbley, FL	Sr.	5-10	174	3L	Miami	*80	Roman Colburn, FL	So.	6-0	175	Sq	Ft. Payne
33	Chris Anderson, RB	Jr.	5-9	178	2L	Huntsville	81	Hamp Greene, PK	Sr.	5-11	185	1L	Montgomery
34	Harold Swopes, FB	So.	5-11	200	Sq	Decatur	*81	Will Knowlton, OLB	Fr.	6-3	206	Sq	Fayette
*34	Joey Roberto, SS	Fr.	6-0	195	HS	Pelham	82	Rick Brown, FL	So.	6-0	175	1L	Ft. Worth, Texas
35	Martin Houston, FB	Sr.	5-10	235	3L	Centre	83	Steve Busky, TE	Sr.	6-6	233	2L	Suitland, Md.
*35	Eric Witherington, ILB	Fr.	6-1	227	HS	Franklin, N.C.	84	Van Bodden, DE	Fr.	6-4	235	Sq	Moss Point, Miss.
36	André Royal, OLB	So.	6-3	210	1L	Northport	85	Curtis Brown, SE	So.	6-3	185	1L	John's Island, S.C.
*36	Scott Wilson, TE-FB	So.	6-3	215	Tr	Tuscaloosa	86	DeLan Trimble, OLB	So.	6-1	230	Sq	Cullman
37	Kevin Lee, SE	Jr.	6-1	186	2L	Mobile	87	Matthew Pine, SN-TE	Jr.	6-3	221	2L	Gadsden
*37	John Hutt, ILB	So.	6-0	213	Sq	Tuscaloosa	88	Dabo Swinney, SE	Sr.	6-1	180	2L	Pelham
38	Mike Campbell, SE	Sr.	6-0	185	1L	Pinson	89	Kris Mangum, TE	Fr.	6-5	255	HS	Magee, Miss.
39	Eric Turner, RB	Fr.	6-1	200	HS	Ft. Payne	90	John Walters, ILB	Fr.	6-2	225	HS	Richardson, Texas
*39	Jeff Foshee, ILB	So.	5-9	204	1L	Millbrook	91	Dametan Jeffries, DE	So.	6-4	256	1L	Sylacauga
40	Lorenzo Cole, FL	Jr.	5-10	175	1L	Florence	92	Jason Milner, DE	So.	6-4	260	Sq	Broken Arrow, Okla.
*40	Tab Whisenhunt, ILB	Jr.	6-2	220	Sq	Bessemer	93	Shannon Brown, NT	Fr.	6-5	263	Sq	Millbrook
41	Anthony Burroughs, FB	Fr.	5-11	202	Sq	Rogersville	94	John Copeland, DE	Sr.	6-3	275	1L	Lanett
42	Myron Pope, OLB	Jr.	6-3	217	Sq	Sweetwater	95	Kelvin Moore, ILB	Fr.	6-3	240	HS	Daphne
43	Antonio Langham, CB	Jr.	6-1	170	2L	Town Creek	*95	Jason Abrams, TE	Jr.	6-4	230	Sq	Demopolis
*43	Steve McLaughlin, RB	Fr.	5-10	170	Sq	Garden City, N.Y.	96	Bryan Thornton, DE	Fr.	6-7	280	Sq	Mobile
44	Darrell Blackburn, OLB	Fr.	6-4	220	HS	Huntsville	97	Guy Helmsing, DE	Fr.	6-3	247	HS	Mobile
45	Tarrant Lynch, FB	So.	6-0	224	1L	Town Creek	98	James Gregory, NT	Jr.	6-4	275	2L	St. Louis
46	John Tanks, OLB	Fr.	6-4	215	HS	Butler	99	Victor Lockett, OLB	Jr.	6-0	243	2L	Mobile

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Making An Impact Early

by John Barnes

Second year defensive back is getting things done on the field and in class

Impact player. It's a term thrown around quite a bit these days in college football. By definition, an impact player is someone whose presence on the football field will cause opponents to make adjustments and always consider his whereabouts. The impact player has the capability to individually change the outcome of a contest. Alabama has one legitimate impact player in David Palmer. Another could be in the making in sophomore defensive back Sam Shade.

The highly-touted tailback/defensive back from Birmingham's Wenonah High School made significant contributions to the Crimson Tide as a true freshman.

Utilized both on special teams and in the secondary, Shade made his presence known in a big way. As a member of the Tide's kick coverage team, he delivered a bone-jarring hit to Tennessee's Dale Carter that so excited ABC's Keith Jackson, he almost leapt from the booth.

On defense, Shade worked primarily as a backup to Stacy Harrison and also as a fifth defensive back in Bama's nickel scheme. Against Auburn, he stopped the Tigers' Joe Frazier just short of the end zone for what would have been the go-ahead touchdown.

"I do love the contact," said the 6-1, 190-pound Shade. "Being aggressive can mean the difference between winning and losing, but at the same time, it's important to keep your composure." Controlled Aggression may be the best way to describe the philosophy of Shade and the rest of the Alabama secondary. Defensive backfield coach Bill Oliver agrees. "Sam is the type of player who immediately catches your attention. I doubt if we have many players on our team who could have made that play at the goalline against Auburn. Sam's physical attributes give us the ability

to have a guy who can do skill things, but at the same time play like a very physical linebacker. He really packs a lick. His speed, strength and hitting ability are great assets, especially when you consider how young he is."

Projected as a starter at either right cornerback or strong safety, Shade just wants a chance to start. "If I had my choice, I would rather play at the safety position," he said. "I think it suits my philosophy and style of play a lot better than cornerback. I feel like you're more into the game at safety. However, one of my goals is to have some interceptions and playing the corner might give me a better opportunity to do that."

Shade will be a member of an Alabama secondary that returns the Southeastern Conference's top two interceptors in George Teague and Antonio Langham. Throw in Vanderbilt transfer Chris Donnelly and sophomore Tommy Johnson and you have what many consider to be one of the top defensive backfields in the country. *Lindy's* preseason football annuals picked the Tide secondary as the nation's third best. "I try not to pay too much attention to preseason publications," said Shade. "Some say we'll be good, others don't. Who do you believe? All we can do is our best. I think we'll have a good secondary and a good defense. George and Antonio are front-line players. Chris, Tommy and myself will be good players. We also have help down the road with the new guys (Willie Gaston and Blair Canale). We'll be fine."

One of the things Oliver likes best about Shade is his desire to succeed. "The thing about Sam is that he really wants to be a good football player," said Oliver. "He's very physical and a good natural athlete. In light of the fact that we're playing him at two different positions, he's done a good job of learning our somewhat complex system. He needs to learn to concentrate a little better at practice and let that carry over into Saturdays. When he does that, he has a chance to achieve great things."

With the possible exception of Donnelly at free safety, Oliver does not know who will start at the other three positions. "We've got five or six guys who could conceivably start," said Oliver. "Sam is certainly one of them. Unfortunately, I just can't say whether it will be at corner or safety. George Teague will be the key to our success. We're asking him to be a leader and to be unselfish. Realistically, I probably won't know our lineup until a few days before the Vanderbilt game."

Shade is no stranger to uncertainty. As a prep sophomore, he began his career at Jones Valley High School in



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Birmingham. Following his inaugural season, the school was closed. He was rezoned to Wenonah, where he played for two different head coaches in two years. "My high-school career was a little strange," he said. "We didn't win many games and every year I felt like I had to prove myself all over again. It was an adjustment, but I think it has helped me over the long haul." It was after Shade's tenth grade year when he began to hear from college recruiters. "At first, I was really interested in Georgia Tech," he said. "I wanted to major in engineering and Tech seemed like a logical choice. Things didn't work out with Tech and I'm glad. I'm very happy to be a part of the Alabama tradition."

Shade's athletic ability was not his only strong point in high school. His all-star performance in the classroom earned him the prestigious Bryant-Jordan Scholar-Athlete Award as a senior at Wenonah. "From an early age, my mom preached academics to me," he said. "I first heard of the award in ninth grade and actually winning it was like a dream come true. It made me realize that sports aren't everything. Shade is in the school of Commerce and Business Administration at Alabama."

Going into fall practice, Shade feels like he has his priorities in order. "I learned so much last year," he said. "Every mistake I made brought me closer to being the type of football player I want to be. I learned that every play is important and you should never look ahead. Every missed assignment, every blown coverage is a learning experience." Mistakes should become less and less frequent for Shade as he continues to learn the system and grow as an athlete. "There's no substitute for experience," said Oliver. "One year of experience can make a tremendous difference for the college athlete. Sam is a year older, and if he picks up where he left off in the



Sam Shade (31) has the physical and mental attributes necessary to be an outstanding football player. Additionally, this year he has an important year of experience behind him.

Barry Fikes Photo

spring, he'll be a big part of our defense."

Sam Shade. The name has star quality. His reputation as a big hitter precedes him, and he's only a sophomore. Even with limited playing time in 1991, He

forced opponents and fans alike to sit up and take notice. Whether or not Sam Shade becomes a household word remains to be seen, but he certainly cannot be ignored on the football field.

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He Wants To Be More Involved

by Donald F. Staffo

Tide tight end has made his mark as a blocker, but would like to catch more passes in his final year

Steve Busky has been a starter at tight end for most of the past two seasons. He's scored a couple of touchdowns and made a few key catches. But his biggest contribution to the Alabama football attack has been as a blocker, clearing the way for Bama's stable of running backs to turn the corner.

As he heads into his final season with the Crimson Tide, both Busky and his position coach, Woody McCorvey, hope Busky will get his hands on the ball more often. McCorvey admitted that Busky did not fit into Alabama's passing plans in a

big way prior to his junior season. "I wasn't encouraged about using him in the passing game," the coach said. "In 1990 we had some doubts about throwing to him in a game. But between 1990 and last season it was about a 90 per cent change."

"We didn't have those doubts last year. Steve did a good job in situations where we threw it to him. Now he's a factor in the passing game."

In three years Busky has caught 19 passes, but McCorvey thinks he could catch that many or more this season. "I hope he continues to improve so he can become a lot more involved in the passing game. I'd like to see him catch 20 passes this year," the coach said. "We have got to be able to get the football to him. To exploit the defense you have got to have a good tight end."

Told of McCorvey's expectations Busky broke out in a big grin. "If I had 20 receptions I'd be so happy I don't know what I'd do," he exclaimed.

Although Busky, who "averaged a touchdown about every other game" his

senior year in high school, said he was a little disappointed in not being on the receiving end of more passes up to this point, he was satisfied with his role. "I love catching the ball and I hoped for more opportunities, but I like to block."

"I enjoy blocking. I just want to get points on the board. If I catch the ball in the end zone or if I block so somebody else can get in the end zone, I'm happy either way."

"With our offense now, if we can establish the running game then that will set up everything else."

Busky believes he has a key responsibility in making the Tide ground game go. "I have to block on the sweep. If I can block the sweep I think the offense can do anything they want to do. It just opens up everything when you can run to the outside and inside."

"If Derrick Lassic can get around the corner, it's home sweet home. I feel for the defensive back who will have to tackle him."

Busky also believes Alabama can make a run for the national championship. "We got the team and the players to take it all the way. I want the national championship, I want to get back to New Orleans, I want it all, I want everything," he said. "This is my last year and that would be a great way to leave. I want to leave it all on the field."

Those last words are what McCorvey wants to hear, because at the start of last season McCorvey benched Busky because he didn't think he was putting forth his best effort.

"I didn't think he was working hard enough or dedicated enough," said McCorvey. "I thought he dropped off from the season before."

"The guys I coach know I demand a lot out of them. Just because you're a starter, you still have to maintain it. You need to earn the job."

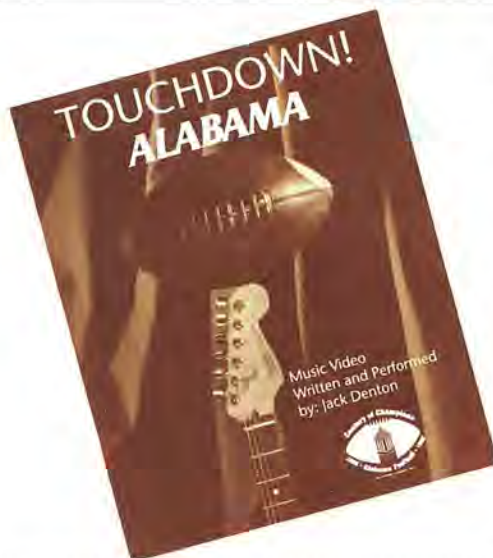
Busky claims he learned his lesson. He also knows that his back-up, Tony Johnson, had a good spring and is eager to play.

Busky became a starter in Bama's third game of the 1990 season and, except for the Penn State game when he was injured, held the position the rest of the way. But when the 1991 campaign opened he was beaten out by Derrick Warren.

"It was embarrassing," Busky said. "I really don't know what the letdown was."

"Coach and I talked about it a lot and it got me going. I really don't know what the problem was, but by Coach

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McCorvey benching me it woke me up and straightened me out.

"It won't happen again. I can promise that."

Busky, 6-6 and 245-pounds, hurt his shoulder in the LSU game last year. Though it didn't require surgery, he said it bothered him right through the Blockbuster Bowl. The injury prevented him from lifting but he says he's now 100 per cent recovered and just starting to get back to the heavy weights. He says he wants to play at 250-pounds this season, about 15 more than last year, but has trouble keeping the weight on.

"I gain weight but as soon as I start running it comes right off," said Busky who weighed 215 when he was an all-metro tight end/defensive end on the football team, and a forward on the basketball team for Bishop McNamara High School in Washington, D.C. He said he narrowed his choice of colleges to Alabama and West Virginia, after South Carolina faded from the picture.

Busky said he was initially impressed with former Tide Head Coach Bill Curry and his staff. "Coach (John) Guy recruited me. He was a down-home type of guy and real straight forward. He didn't feed a lot of bull to you. Then when I came for my visit I liked the atmosphere. I liked the way the players were together as a team and the feeling of family. The coaching staff made you feel comfortable."

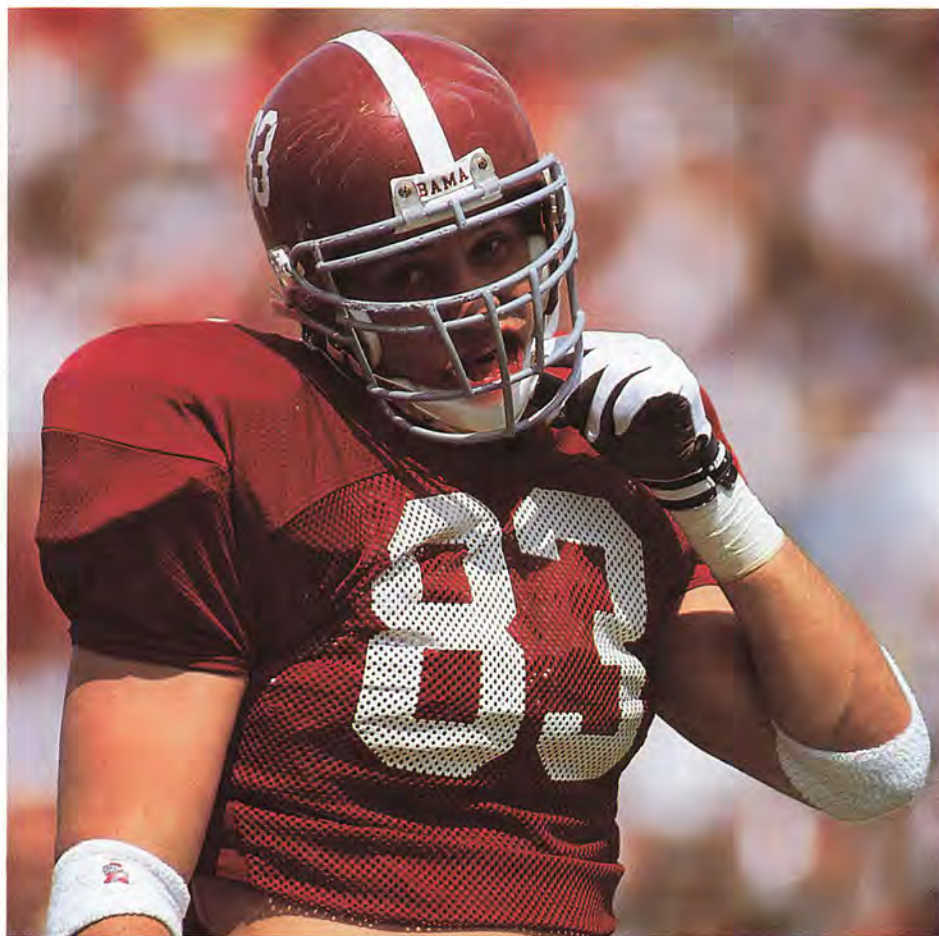
But things changed for Busky, and not for the better. "I didn't think I got a chance to show what I could do," he said. "We didn't hit it off. I never got along. I thought that I should be playing more, and they didn't. Everything just fell apart."

Busky includes the 1989 Sugar Bowl season with the old staff among his Bama highlights so far, but was glad to begin fresh with Gene Stallings and his staff. "It gave me a new start, and from a personal standpoint it worked out well."

By his third game with Stallings and McCorvey, Busky was starting, and except for injury and his brief two-game demotion, has capably manned the tight end spot. He scored touchdowns against Southwestern Louisiana and the University of Tennessee-Chattanooga, but takes more satisfaction in other accomplishments. "We had both of those games pretty much in control," he said.

"I feel better about starting and contributing in the two wins over Auburn, and recovering a fumble against Tennessee from which we got points."

Busky also caught a clutch 30-yard pass against the Volunteers which kept a touchdown drive alive. "I went up in the air between two defenders to get the football and came down with it," he said. "That's what I hope to do more of this year; catch the ball in traffic."



In great part, how Steve Busky goes so goes the Alabama offense. If he blocks, Bama can run, and if Bama can run, the Tide can also pass. This year Busky hopes that Alabama can pass and that one of the primary receivers is the tight end.

Barry Fikes Photo

That's what McCorvey wants more of too. "Steve is a good blocker and if he continues to improve in getting open on

pass routes and catching the ball, he'll give us another dimension in our passing game," he said.



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David Palmer:

Don't Look For Soph To Slump

by Tommy Deas

Star wide receiver/kick returner/quarterback wants to improve this year

Flanker. That's David Palmer's position as listed in the University of Alabama's 1992 media guide. If the sophomore from Birmingham's freshman exploits are an indication of things to come, it may prove to be one of the greatest understatements in Crimson Tide history.

Players only get one job description in the publication, and wide receiver is Palmer's primary duty with the Tide football team. But Palmer does more, much more, as evidenced by his freshman season—and it's a little hard to fit flanker/quarterback/punt returner/kickoff returner on one line.

"I'm going to play Palmer a lot like I did last year," said Gene Stallings, Alabama's head coach. "I'm going to play him at receiver, I'm going to give him some work at quarterback."

"We've got to get the ball to him. He doesn't need much daylight. He's got a knack of making people miss him. He's an exciting ball player."

Alabama opponents need no reminder of that crimson streak wearing Number 2, who compiled 1,113 all-purpose yards, a school-record three punt returns for touchdowns and a team-high 17 receptions during the regular season. The Colorado Buffaloes won't be consoled that Palmer's 52-yard touchdown return in the Blockbuster Bowl won't count in his career statistics.

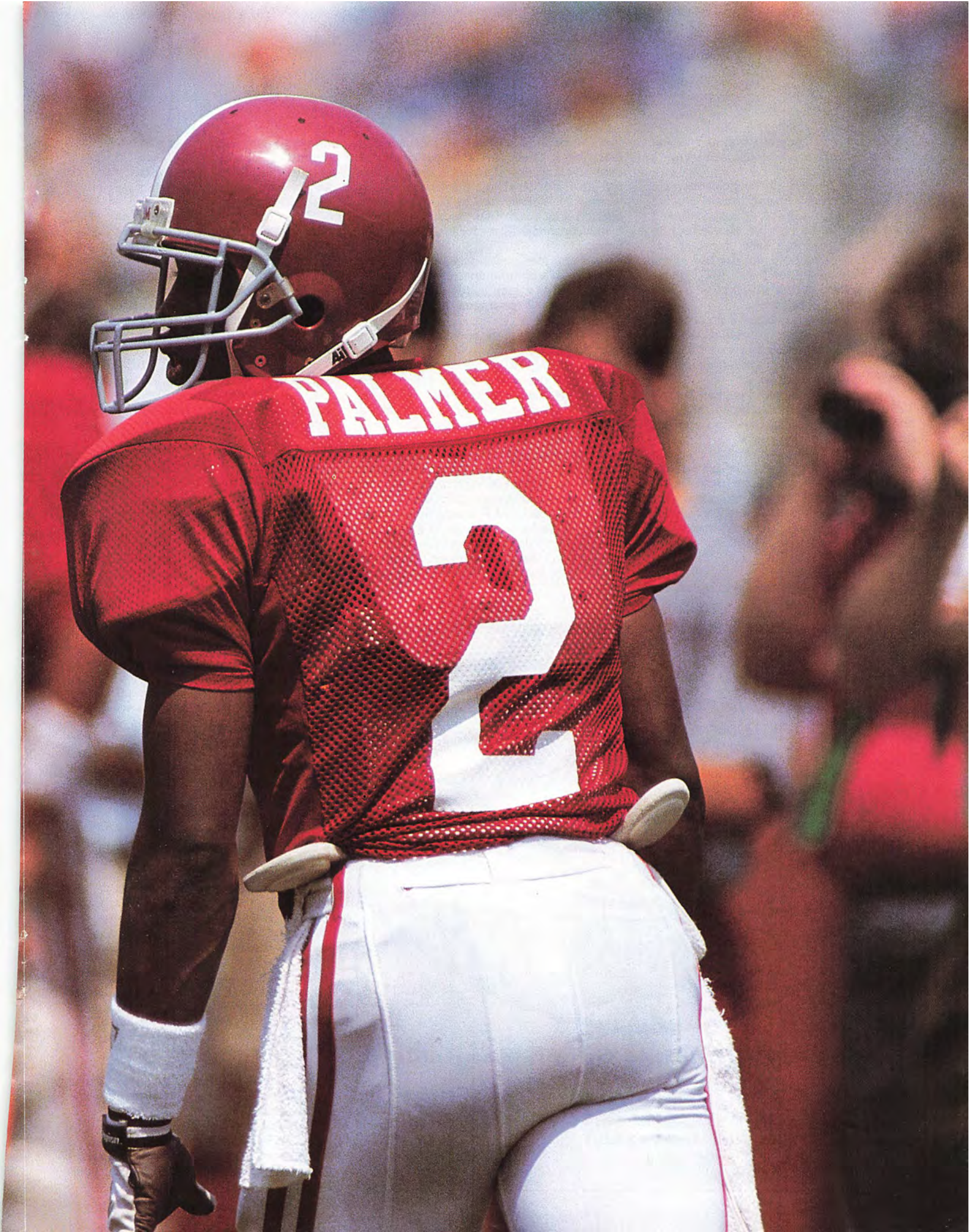
All that in only five starts.

What is frightening is the gleam in his



After just one season, Crimson Tide football star David Palmer has made both his name and number known to almost every college football fan.

Barry Fikes Photo



eye when Palmer suggests that he's willing to learn another position. How many more are there?

"I started playing all the positions as a kid in youth ball," Palmer said. "When I got up to high school, it just followed along with me, so I played quarterback in high school, running back, receiver, returner. In high school I got the ball in my hands 90 percent of the time. I guess that's why here at Alabama they've moved me to so many positions."

"It really doesn't matter, I'll do anything to win. If coach was to put me at center, if that's what it takes for us to win, I'll do it. I'm a team player. I don't mind, as long as I get the ball in my hands."

Listening to Palmer list his goals for the 1992 season is like listening to an offensive coordinator speak of season hopes for his entire unit.

"I want to have a better year than last year," he said. "I want to have more catches than I had last season for more yards, more punt return yardage and more punt returns for touchdowns, more catches for touchdowns, I want to pass for some yardage, and rush—just anything to help the team out."

"And more blocking."

With all the helmets Palmer wears for

the Crimson Tide, one can imagine the planning it takes for coaches to get all their teaching and practice in within allotted time constraints. Receivers coach Woody McCorvey has to compete with quarterbacks coach Mal Moore and return teams coach Bill Oliver for his prize pupil's time.

In fact, McCorvey has a warning to Oliver if he's entertaining any ideas about giving Palmer a look in the defensive secondary, Oliver's other area of coaching expertise.

"We'd get in a fight about that," the receivers coach said.

Said Moore, "We have certain times he meets with the quarterbacks, but he normally meets with the wideouts. The team football concept is so easy to him; he has an understanding of the game and what we're trying to do."

"There are periods in practice that are designed just for him at quarterback. We have some things just for him, but we also use things out of the normal offense."

Moore knows that Palmer's time behind center will be limited, at least as long as returning starter Jay Barker remains healthy. But he can't help but fantasize about the prospect of Palmer as a full-time quarterback.

"I think we're utilizing him in an ideal situation for his talents," Moore said, "but if you're going to run him at quarterback, I'd like to have had him 15 years ago in the wishbone."

"You could do so many things. That would be something."

Stallings isn't willing to rule out anything.

"If something were to happen (to Barker), we wouldn't hesitate to put David Palmer at the quarterback position," the head coach said. "We worked him there every day this spring knowing that was a possibility."

"He's best suited to be a wide receiver and a return man. But if all he did was play quarterback, he would be an outstanding quarterback. We'd have to simplify the offense, but that doesn't mean we couldn't pass."

"It just means you can't run your whole offense with a guy who hasn't practiced at the quarterback position. But we could pass. He can throw the football. We'd probably have a few more quarterback sweeps, though."

As intriguing as the Palmer-at-quarterback scenario is, he can be counted on to spend more of this fall split wide from the offensive line than taking snaps behind it. It is at flanker that the 5-9, 172-pounder can most help improve an Alabama offense that was rarely much better than good enough to win last season.

While the Crimson Tide defense carried the load in 1991, Palmer expects the offense to lighten that burden this season.

"I think for our offense to go, we're going to have to pass a little more than we did last season," Palmer said. "Our defense really decided the season for us last year, but we think this year the offensive team is going to decide this season."

"For us to win the national championship, we've got to have a good offensive team as well as a defensive team. As an offense we've got to put more points on the board than we did last year."

"We've got a lot of guys out there—Prince Wimbley, Kevin Lee, Curtis Brown. We've got some good running backs, but the receivers and the quarterbacks have worked hard to improve on the passing game."

It's easy to let Palmer's heroics in his other roles overshadow the fact that he led an 11-1 team in receptions as a pure freshman. He led the squad with 314 yards and three touchdowns for an 18.5-yard average per catch.

"I don't want teams to be thinking of me just as a punt returner, but also as a threat as a receiver," he said. "I want more catches this season."

That would suit McCorvey just fine. The Alabama receivers coach sees Palmer as much more than a touchdown punt return waiting to happen or a wild card at quarterback.

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"I think he's an exceptional talent as a receiver," McCorvey said. "His strengths are in his quickness. He's a lot more quick than having blazing speed like Kevin Lee. He also runs good routes and has explosiveness jumping to the ball."

"He has some improving to do. We want to use him more this year. We plan to throw the ball a lot more, and he's got to work harder because he established a pattern by the pace he set last year. Other teams will be looking for him."

Or, as Palmer puts it, "They didn't know about David Palmer last season. I can't sneak up on anybody."

"I'm really not that fast. I haven't been timed lately (in the 40-yard dash), but the fastest time I've run is a 4.49. I'm just quick. I cut real good."

"I haven't got any tricks up my sleeve. I just go out and however the defenses play me, I'll make a decision on what I'm going to do. They'll be keying on me more this year."

Even though he thinks Alabama's success in the coming season will rely on the ability of the offense to light up the scoreboard, Palmer knows a great part of his personal success will depend on the defense. The more punts the stop unit can force, the more chances Palmer will have to make a game-breaking punt return.

"I love returning kicks and I also love playing receiver," he said, "but if the NCAA was to pass a law today that you could only play one position, I think I'd be running back kicks."

"It's exciting to me to make guys miss. That's the key to being a good punt returner, a good kick returner, to make guys miss. I notice when I go out there on the field a lot of the crowd will be hollering, screaming, but I concentrate on catching the ball."

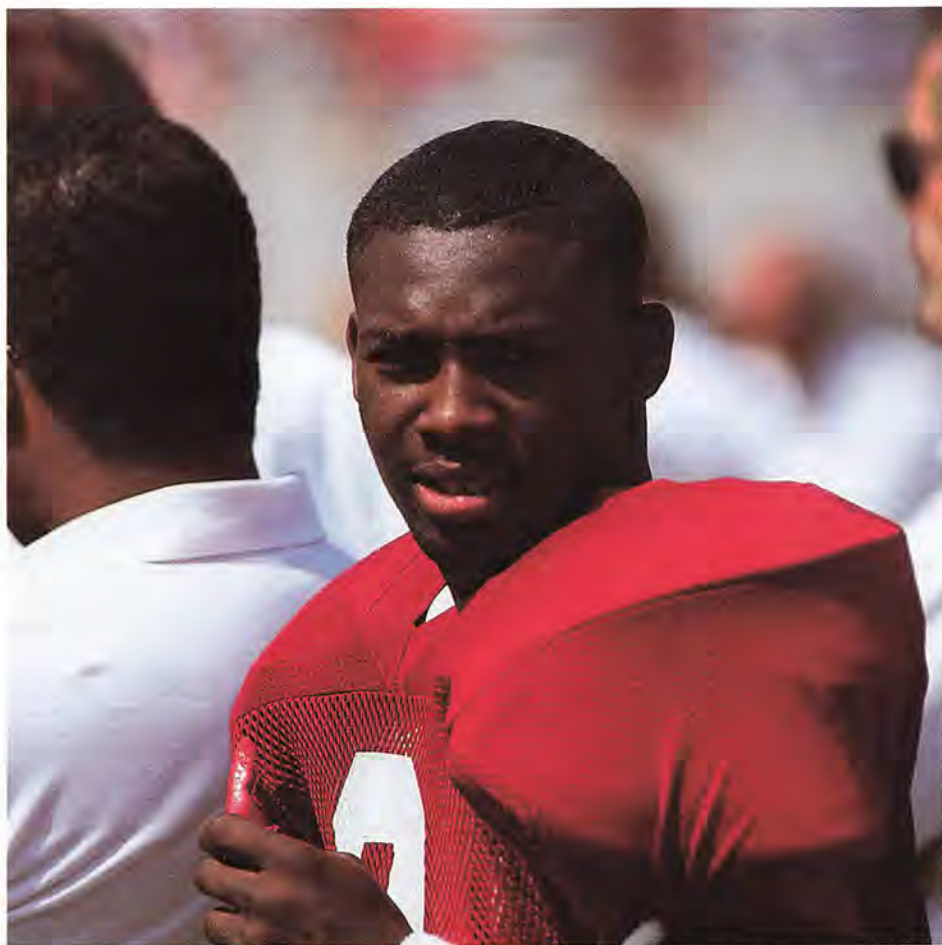
McCorvey credits exceptional vision as much as Palmer's built-in radar for avoiding tacklers.

"Last year against Vanderbilt and in the Blockbuster Bowl against Colorado (on returns)," the coach recalls, "he saw an opening across the field and cut to it. He's very aware of things that happen on the field."

As a freshman, Palmer's performance quieted the critics who weren't impressed enough with his 3,200-yard, 42-touchdown senior season at Jackson-Olin High School. While recruiters were ringing his telephone at all hours, he also heard from nay-sayers about his size.

"Coming out of high school, a lot of people said I wasn't going to be able to play on the Division I level because of my size," he said. "I think I coped with that well. I think I went out and played like I'm 6-3."

Palmer is aware that his freshman accomplishments are behind him, that last season's Most Valuable Player award from the Blockbuster Bowl and his selection to



About the only time David Palmer isn't a threat for the Crimson Tide is when the versatile performer is on the sidelines. There are no plans to involve Palmer on defense.

Barry Fikes Photo

the all-freshman team in the Southeastern Conference won't buy him a cup of coffee today. And he said that there is much left for him to do.

"I've got three more years here," he said. "My goal is to be an All-America and break the most touchdowns record (40 in his three-year career) that's held by Bobby Humphrey."

"I can improve on my blocking. I think I can improve everything about my game. I'm a veteran now. I think I've caught up with some of the upperclassmen."

"Every year you pick up some things that you could have done the year before that you didn't do. I'm a lot more experienced now than I was as a freshman."

Palmer is aware of his sudden and growing fame within the state—as well as his budding national reputation as an explosive force in college football.

He relates an exchange between himself and Stallings, one the head coach used to make a point about the limelight that will follow Palmer throughout his career.

"He asked me who were the four most well-known people in the state of

Alabama," Palmer recalls. "He said (the governor), him and (Auburn Football Coach) Pat Dye, and he asked me who the fourth one was."

"I told him myself. I thought he was talking about me, so I said that. Sometimes I don't go places I want to go, like the mall, because I get there and somebody in every store knows me. I can see them pointing at me."

One way Palmer's celebrity has manifested itself is in nicknames like "Pocket Rocket." Another is in bumper stickers and shirts warning, "The Deuce is Loose," which have even been seen on some of his teammates. Palmer would be just as happy without such trappings.

"I'm not too high on nicknames," he said. "On my birth certificate it says 'David Palmer,' and that's what I go by."

"It doesn't bother me. I don't pay attention to it. I just go out and play like David Palmer."

Whether it's running back kicks or punts, throwing passes or catching them, that has so far been more than enough to please the Alabama faithful.

Hootie Ingram:

The State Of The Tide

by Kirk McNair

Tide athletics director sees good things ahead for Tide, questions nationally

There is a way to look at recent Alabama events and conclude that much is not well in the Crimson Tide athletics kingdom. Last year the Alabama men finished fifth in the Southeastern Conference in all-sports competition. And, because two members of the 12-team league—Arkansas and South Carolina—were ineligible for football in 1991, the league decided to allow every school to throw out one sport's finish before the all-sports finish was calculated.

Alabama, which once dominated the SEC in baseball, tossed out its 12th place baseball finish.

The Alabama women fared better, third in overall all-sports competition. That is significant because the SEC dominates in women's intercollegiate athletics.

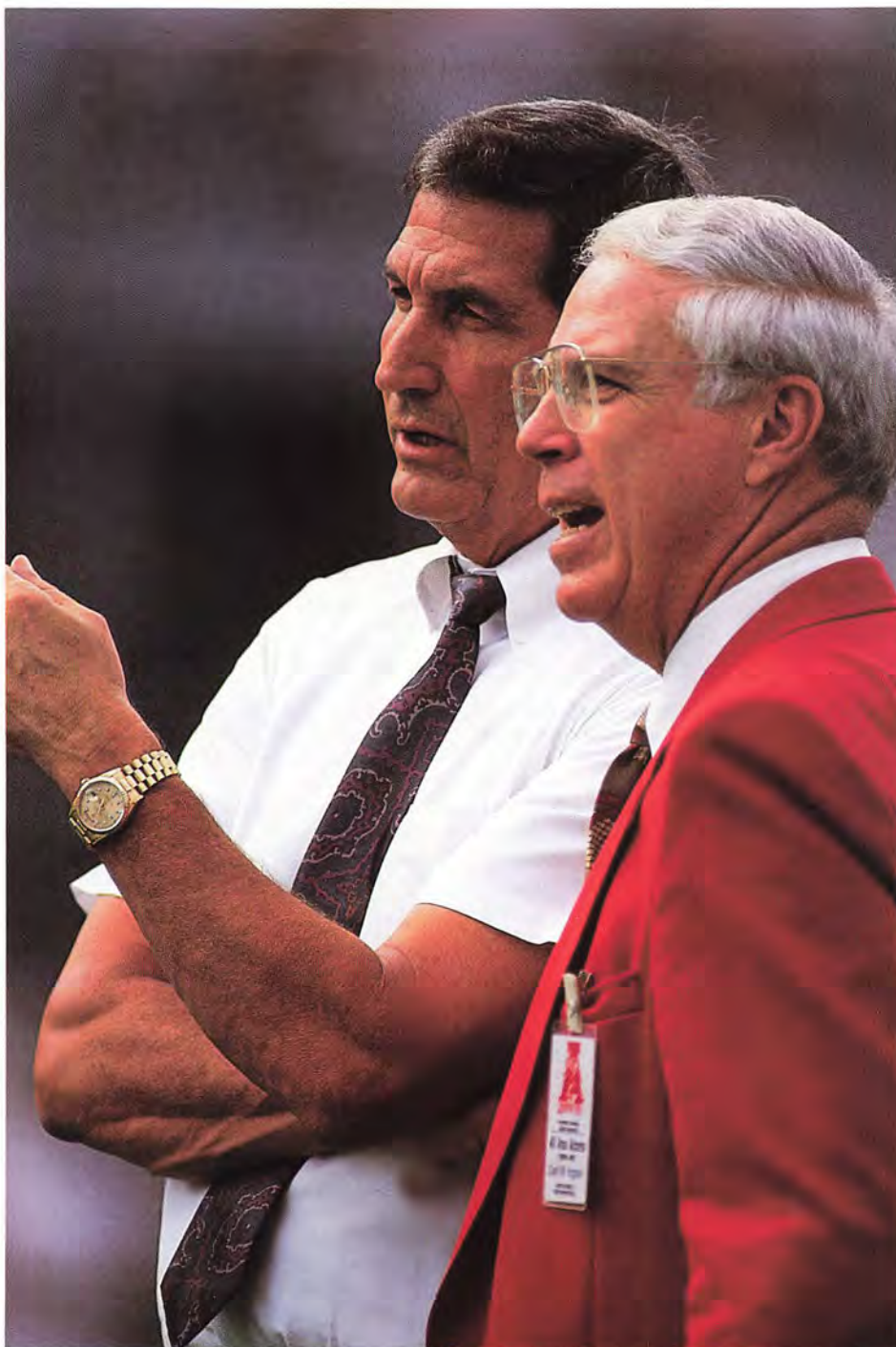
Meanwhile, the NCAA recently issued a report that showed Alabama athletes lagged behind other students in earning degrees. The report, which has some statistical deviations that make it not a completely true picture, showed that only 35 per cent of those signing athletics scholarships with Alabama in 1983-84 and 1984-85 had earned degrees by 1990.

However, the man in charge of the program—Ingram—isn't panicked. He sees the glass not only half full, but filling up.

"I think we had a fine year," he said. "A lot more of our sports are creeping up nationally. Both men's and women's tennis teams showed improvement; men's golf had a big leap—the most improved golf team in the nation—and the women's program was up and is improving. Women's track improved and women's basketball made a giant stride, reaching the NCAA Tournament. We continued strong in the sports that have been strong—football, men's basketball, gymnastics, men's swimming. Our women's swimming and baseball programs were not as good as they have been, but both recruited well, and the future looks good. I think the experience and the attention (Bama Head Swimming Coach) Jonty Skinner got for him and for The University at the Olympics will pay

Alabama Athletics Director Hootie Ingram (right) has a word with one of the most important employees in his department, Bama Head Football Coach Gene Stallings.

Barry Fikes Photo



dividends to Alabama, because top young swimmers notice things like that.

"So overall, things were pretty good because overall things were improved. And recruiting seemed strong in every sport."

He said one reason for strength in the athletics program is Alabama's ability to retain good coaches. "We had very little turnover in our personnel," Ingram said. "That's not to say a lot of our coaches weren't approached about other jobs, because they were. When you have quality coaches, as we have, other schools are going to seek them out. I think it's a compliment to The University of Alabama that people want to stay here."

Academically, he said "I think we made more strides in 1991-92 than in any year I've been associated with athletics. This is encouraging. When we came here we established a new counseling and advising system for our athletes, putting it under the auspices of The University's program. Dr. Donald Crump, who runs The University's program, and Kevin Almond, the academic advisor in the athletics department, work on this day-to-day and the results are showing. There's no doubt we're on the right track."

A case can be made that when all is well with Bama football, then all is well with Crimson Tide athletics. There can be

little debate that football is king at Alabama or that the football program appears to be in good shape.

Ingram is interested in all Alabama teams—and the athletes, coaches and others associated with all those programs. Nevertheless, he knows better than anyone how critical football is to the budgets of all other sports. With the exception of men's basketball, no other sport comes close to generating the revenue to support that sport.

It is of some concern to Ingram that proposals currently being discussed and considered by the NCAA and by various branches of government could have a negative impact on football and, therefore, on all intercollegiate sports. Men's athletics programs, and football specifically, are seen by some (not necessarily Ingram) as particularly threatened by the latest rights battleground: gender equity.

"I think a lot of schools, particularly in the Southeastern Conference, have made a lot of progress in this area," Ingram said. "I think we've been very fair. We realize we want to have strong women's programs and we've worked to that end. But right now we don't know what the courts or the NCAA or the Congress or whomever is going to say."

"There's one school of thought that we need to tear down a lot of the things we're

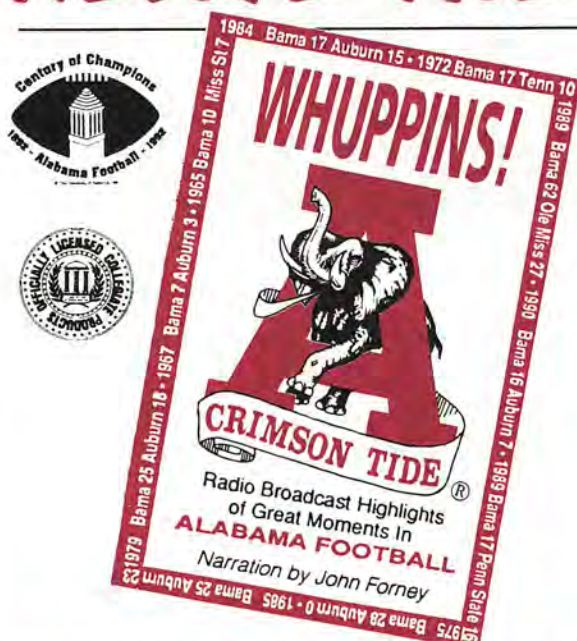
doing in order to balance. Then there are a lot of people saying let's keep a steady, sensible growth. And finally there are those who say we've already done too much, that we need to stop. I think those on both end are wrong. I think we need to keep working steadily."

He said the first school of thought wants to include the overall campus ratio of men to women in the equation to budget for athletics, which would drastically reduce football scholarships. The other end of the spectrum has those who would do away with all sports that are not revenue-producing. "I think, and hope, both are in the minority," Ingram said. He is hopeful, and cautiously confident, a sensible compromise will result.

Ingram reminds that when Title IX, the original bill to mandate funding for women's athletics (among other equal rights provisions), was passed, many believed it spelled doom for men's athletics. That has not proved to be the case. "Title IX had a lot of sensible solutions," Ingram said. "When it first came out it was heavily criticized, but today it makes a lot of sense and we don't have to go too much further to have a fair program."

At the time Title IX was passed, football was not included in the equation of equality for several reasons, Ingram said. One is that football pays all the bills. Another is that

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there is no comparable women's sport that needs so many athletes and coaches. "Incidentally," Ingram said, "when Title IX was passed we had 105 football scholarships. It has since been cut to 95, then 92 this year, then only 85 two years from now. I don't think that's enough to have a solid football program like we need to have. If we expect to fill football stadiums to pay our bills, we've got to have a product to sell. When you have 85 players and with the academic and injury and dropout factors figured in, you can run out of folk pretty easily. I think 95 is a workable number."

Football currently is excepted when determining equal funding for athletics. Alabama has eight men's sports (in addition to football) and nine women's sports. One concern nationwide is that if strict equal funding of athletics is mandated, schools will:

either have to add numerous women's teams to equal a football team;

or, more likely considering the financial situation in college athletics generally, cut most of the scholarships of non-revenue producing men's teams—men's golf, tennis, track and field, swimming, etc.

"People have accepted football being excepted and I think that's the sensible way

to go," Ingram said. "We are paying our bills at Alabama. We've got a sensible budget and we're staying in it. We don't get any state money and never have. And I think the people within our program and our administration and our fans and alumni appreciate the fact we are trying to have a broad-based program in all our sports."

Across the board in athletics scholarships, Alabama spends 65 per cent of its money on men's scholarships, 35 per cent on women's scholarships. Alabama is one of three SEC schools spending that much on women's athletics scholarships. However, when football is taken out of the equation, Bama spends 49 per cent of its athletics scholarship money on men, 51 per cent on women.

"We've kept pace, which means we won't have to implement stopgap measures because we got behind," Ingram said.

Although Ingram believes each campus is capable of dealing with the situation without guidelines from the NCAA, he thinks the NCAA will be allowed to work out a plan for equality in men's and women's athletics that will be acceptable, primarily because the NCAA has shown in recent years that it is a responsible, progressive organization.



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Pigskin Preps' Pre-Season Super South 75

Editor's Note: The following list was supplied to BAMA by Pigskin Preps., 369 Gordon Drive, Suite 17, Moulton, AL 35650. Information includes height, weight, 40-yard dash time, hometown and high school if different than the name of the hometown. Players are listed alphabetically by position.

QUARTERBACKS

Mike Bobo	6-2	190	5.0	Thomasville, Ga.
Thad Busby	6-3	195	4.6	Pace, Fla.
Brian Davis	6-3	190	4.8	Murfreesboro, Tenn. (Riverdale)
Tyrone Frazier	5-11	170	4.3	Shreveport, La. (Woodlawn)
Freddie Kitchens	6-2	220	4.8	Attalla (Etowah County)
Kirk Presley	6-2	190	4.7	Tupelo, Miss.
Derrick Stegall	6-2	195	4.4	Newnan, Ga.
Anthony Swinney	6-1	180	4.5	N.Little Rock, Ark.
Lance Tucker	6-0	175	4.6	Fayette

RUNNING BACKS

Curtis Alexander	6-1	195	4.4	Memphis, Tenn. (Whitehaven)
Tyrone Baker	5-10	170	4.4	Gainesville, Fla. (Buchholz)
Eric Booth	6-1	200	4.4	Bassfield, Miss.
Selma Calloway	5-10	189	4.5	Colquitt, Ga. (Miller County)
Kevin Franklin	5-10	175	4.5	Baton Rouge, La. (Catholic)
Nakia Greer	5-10	200	4.6	Hernando, Miss.
Amel Jackson	5-8	173	4.5	Marietta, Ga.
T.J. Johnson	5-8	180	4.5	Atlanta, Ga. (Lakeside)
Lawrence Nixon	5-11	180	4.5	Jennings, La.
Nathan Perryman	5-11	175	4.6	Columbia, S.C.
Marc Renaud	5-11	175	4.5	Deerfield Beach, Fla.
Tim Scarborough	5-8	185	4.6	Little Rock, Ark. (McClellan)
Jermaine Sharp	5-11	190	4.4	Monroe, La. (Ouachita Christian)
Clarence Williams	6-2	240	4.6	Crescent City, Fla.
Elijah Williams	5-11	185	4.4	Milton, Fla.

WIDE RECEIVERS / TIGHT ENDS

Derrick Beavers	5-7	170	4.4	Lafayette, La. (Carencro)
J.J. Brown	6-4	220	4.6	Chesterfield, S.C.
Nigee Carter	6-3	185	4.5	Coconut Creek, Fla.
Andre Cooper	6-2	190	4.5	Jacksonville Bch, Fla. (Fletcher)
Kobie Jenkins	6-3	185	4.4	Jackson, Miss. (Murrah)
Jessie McCovery	6-3	250	4.7	Theodore
Charles Peterson	6-4	190	4.5	Laurens, S.C.
Demetria Shelton	6-1	170	4.5	Jasper (Walker)
Reuel Shepherd	6-2	180	4.5	Conway, Ark.
Todd Stevenson	6-5	245	4.8	Atlanta (Lakeside)
Rhodney Williams	6-6	240	4.6	Palatka, Fla.

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

Willie Anderson	6-6	300	5.0	Prichard (Vigor)
Dexter Babineaux	6-4	280	5.1	Lafayette, La. (Carencro)
Kerlin Blaise	6-5	295	5.2	Orlando, Fla. (Evans)
Freeman Brown	6-8	317	5.1	Miami, Fla. (Carol City)
Will Friend	6-3	275	4.9	Philadelphia, Miss. (Neshoba Cent.)
Joel Holliday	6-4	290	5.1	Central, S.C. (Daniel)
Chris Jordan	6-6	288	5.1	Jackson
Kevin Long	6-6	235	4.9	Summerville, S.C.
Stacy Patterson	6-4	265	5.1	Gray, Ga. (Jones County)
Don Streubing	6-3	260	5.2	Springdale, Ark.
Trey Teague	6-5	260	5.0	Jackson, Tenn. (University)

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

Billy Beron	6-5	260	4.8	Metairie, La. (Rummel)
Elijah Brown	6-4	275	4.7	Jacksonville, Fla. (University Christian)
Ryan Collins	6-5	228	4.7	Dandridge, Tenn. (Jefferson City)
Eric Dotson	6-4	280	4.7	Pascagoula, Miss.
Keith Drayton	6-3	285	4.8	Fort Myers, Fla.
Jason Ferguson	6-3	308	5.0	Nettleton, Miss.
Mercedes Hamilton	6-4	282	5.1	Waynesboro, Ga. (Burke County)
Kennard Lang	6-5	240	4.8	Orlando, Fla. (Evans)
Colby McCullough	6-4	241	4.9	Marrero, La. (Shaw)
Julian Pittman	6-5	250	4.9	Niceville, Fla.
Jason Walters	6-4	230	4.7	Memphis, Tenn. (Christian Brothers)

LINEBACKERS

Daryl Bush	6-4	218	4.6	Altamonte Spgs, Fla. (Lake Brantley)
James Burgess	6-1	225	4.6	Homestead, Fla.
Sam Cowart	6-2	225	4.7	Jacksonville, Fla. (Mandarin)
Melvin Dansby	6-4	230	4.7	Birmingham (Ensley)
Brad Duke	6-1	220	4.7	N. Little Rock, Ark.
Derrick Gibson	6-3	220	4.6	Haines City, Fla.
Derrick Johnson	6-2	240	4.6	Memphis, Tenn. (Craigmont)
Marcellus Mostella	6-4	220	4.5	Gadsden
Mike Phillips	6-4	220	4.7	Marrero, La. (John Ehret)
Ralph Staten	6-4	200	4.5	Semmes (Mary Montgomery)
Romel Stowers	6-2	235	4.6	Pendleton, S.C.

DEFENSIVE BACKS

Byron Capers	6-1	180	4.5	Marietta, Ga. (Wheeler)
Jimmy Clements	6-4	195	4.5	Powder Springs, Ga. (McEachern)
Travis Cozart	6-2	205	4.5	Lenoir City, Tenn.
Brandon Davis	6-2	190	4.5	Lindale, Ga. (Pepperell)
Warrick Dunn	5-11	175	4.4	Baton Rouge, La. (Catholic)
Jammi German	6-2	177	4.3	Fort Myers, Fla.
Derek Rush	6-3	180	4.5	Philadelphia, Miss.

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Six Tiders Are Already Alumni

by Barbara Butler

These student-athletes have earned degrees, but will continue to play

More often than not, an athlete's achievements off the playing field go relatively unrecognized. However, six members of the Alabama football team deserve recognition, not only for their accomplishments on the field, but because they enter the 1992 season as graduates of The University.

On the football field, the most noted of these is defensive end Eric Curry, an All-America candidate and leader on the defensive front. Offensive lineman George Wilson, fullback Martin Houston, holder/cornerback Jeff Wall, linebacker Willis Bevelle and punter Stan Moss complete the list.

For Curry the achievement is special. An A and B student at Thomasville (Georgia) High School, Curry missed the SAT qualifying standard by 10 points and entered Alabama in 1988 as a Proposition 48 non-qualifier. Like many students, Curry attributes his low score to "test anxiety."

Ineligible to participate in any football activities his freshman year, Curry's eyes were opened to the importance of school. "Since I knew I couldn't play football, I let that mold me into being a better person and a better student," he said.

Curry made sure he never let being ineligible knock him down. "People said being a Prop 48 could be a downfall throughout my career as far as school was concerned, but I never saw it that way and never let it bother me," he said. "That was always a motivation for me to go in and strive to work on my books and always get my lessons done."

The Proposition 48 rule at that time was that a partial qualifier (someone who was eligible based on high school grades, but ineligible because of the test score, or vice versa) could attend the school on scholarship, but not take part in football. The rule today eliminates any scholarship aid from the school for partial qualifiers.

Thus, Curry spent the 1988 season away from the football field and with school work top priority, waiting until his sophomore season. However, he did not get a chance then either. In 1989 August practices, Curry broke his foot and he missed the entire season. He earned a

medical hardship leaving him with three years of eligibility. Realistically, two years away from football practice may have been beneficial to him academically.

The last two seasons Curry has made up for lost time as he accumulated 74 tackles, 11 behind the line for 37 yards and 12 sacks for 102 yards. In 1991, he led the team in quarterback pressures with 20.

Curry chooses to highlight the positive results of his tough times. "I think being a Prop 48 helped me," he said. "It made me more mature. It made me realize that football is not everything and when you graduate, you have something to fall back on. Even if you get to play in the pros for five years, what are you going to do when that is over? You've got to have some kind of a degree to show people you have the intellect to go into another field," he said.

Curry's interest in the career field of counseling and probation work may give him the opportunity to guide young people before they find themselves in trouble. He majored in criminal justice and lists working with troubled kids as his specialty. "I've always wanted to be considered as a role model, someone that others can look up to," he said. "While in school I got a lot out of talking with kids and the people in prisons."

Of course, if Curry lives up to preseason expectations he could be headed for the NFL after this year. Much of the hype surrounding the 6-7, 255 pound defensive end points to him as a strong candidate for All-SEC and All-America honors. A good 1992 should also bring in the pro scouts. If Curry is taken on draft day in April he made it quite clear it would be exciting.

"I would be all teeth," he said. "I would feel happy for my whole family because they would feel good for me after all the

things I have been through. It makes me excited to believe I have a chance at playing in the big leagues."

Regardless of the future, Curry recognizes the opportunity football has already provided. "I'm the first one in my whole family to graduate from college," he said. "It's a big thing, especially to my mom. She was really a big influence on my life."

"She would sit me down and tutor me in all my classes and lessons I had to go through. I could never just get up and go outside and play. She always was right there with that ruler saying, 'You have got to get your school work done,'" he said.

Also preparing for life after football is Martin Houston who had to consider the needs of his wife, Cassandra, and son, Xavier Christian. "I wanted to get my education before I ever got married," he said. "Now I feel responsible for a wife and a son and I felt the best way for me to take care of them was to get an education and then get a good job. I feel their welfare is my responsibility."

Along the way, Houston learned the importance of finding a balance between football, family and school. A self-proclaimed couch potato, he used to let television interfere with his study and family time. Not anymore.

"I had to give up something and since the Tennessee game last year we have not had cable in our house," he said. "We only get two channels and I may watch it sometimes, but not as much as I used to."

"The hour or two I used to spend in front of the television, I now use to study and then I have extra time to spend with my family," he said. The dedication to school paid off when Houston finished his curriculum in July and received his degree in Commerce and Business in August after summer school was completed. His current plans include beginning graduate school to obtain a master's degree.

Another gridiron guy who has worked hard and has been rewarded with a degree is offensive guard George Wilson. A National Honor Society student in high school, Wilson carried that desire to excel over to college where he was named to the Academic All-SEC list twice and was honored with the Toyota Leadership Award last year against Florida. In May, he received a bachelor's of arts in history.

Wilson is clearly a guy with a handle on the importance of finding the right mix of academics and athletics. "I've always kept my grades balanced and felt that in the long run, going to school and getting my education is going to be the most important thing. Even if you are a superstar on the field, there is going to come a day when that is all over," he said.

How Graduates Can Play

How can college graduates play college football? Once upon a time that was not possible. However, several years ago the NCAA recognized it was punishing good students, making them take a choice between graduating before their football careers had ended (either because they were able to graduate early or because they had been redshirted and had a fifth year of football eligibility remaining).

Therefore, the rule was changed to allow a student-athlete to graduate and continue athletic participation.

However, graduates are not just athletes. In order to be eligible to participate the athlete must continue as a full time student. That means pursuing a second major, which requires a minimum of 12 credit hours, or pursuing a master's degree, which requires a minimum of nine credit hours.



Curry



Houston



Wilson



Bevelle



Wall



Moss

For Wilson the end of his career almost came too soon. In the summer of 1989, prior to his redshirt freshman year, Wilson severely damaged his left foot in a hunting accident and missed the entire season. "When all that happened, as quick as I could, I got back in school because it was easier to get back to school than back to football," he said. "At first it was staying alive, then walking again. Football was such a part of my life, it was like, 'Let me see if I can get back to playing this game.'"

Wilson credits his success on and off the football field to time management. There is a time for football and a time for studying and by finding the right balance between the two, Wilson has reaped the rewards of both.

Bevelle, Wall and Moss are worthy of recognition also. Bevelle didn't think college was in his future when he graduated from Hueytown High School in 1984. No college scholarships were offered, despite a good career as a prep quarterback. Bevelle, who is 28 years old, came to Alabama as a walkon after serving a four-year stint in the U.S. Navy and later earned a scholarship. Bevelle, a safety, has been a wide receiver and outside linebacker, as well as defensive back. He finished his undergraduate work in August in advertising and will further his education in telecommunications and film.

Wall, the holder for the Tide's field goal unit and a backup cornerback, received a bachelor's degree in marketing in August.

This fall he will be studying finance to give him a broader business background. Wall said that his desire to finish his education was accentuated when he became engaged.

Moss, an accounting major, also completed work toward his degree this summer. He will begin graduate school in the fall. A punter for the Tide, Moss did not see action in 1991, but kicked 18 times in 1990 for an average of 37.5 yards a punt. In 1990 he was Academic All-SEC.

Each of these graduates stands as a reminder that it is possible to mix athletics and academics. They are now alumni of The University of Alabama, an achievement that should make themselves, their families and Alabama fans proud.

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A Special Year For Seniors

by Becky Hopf

The fourth year of Bama's revived program should show continued progress

Hallmark doesn't make a card to commemorate a four-year anniversary. It usually takes at least a decade before there's cause for special celebration. But the fourth anniversary of Alabama volleyball will be remembered as one of the sweetest. It signifies the coming of age for the program and six of the players who took a chance four years ago and became the Crimson Tide's first volleyball team since the sport had been dropped nearly 10 years earlier.

No one knew what she was getting into. There was no previous team to gauge the program's potential. Only three of the inaugural nine team members in 1989

would start out on scholarship. Nonplussed, the first players—Kristye Hall, Sue Faris, Andrea Miller, Jennifer Miller, Stephanie Moore and Ellen Bible—stuck with it for four years and will emerge as Alabama's first volleyball graduating class.

"This senior class is unique and special in that they have had the rare opportunity of laying the foundation for a brand new program," said Tide volleyball coach Dorothy Franco-Reed, who was an Alabama letterman during volleyball's first Bama tenure in the 1970's. "The progress our team has made over the past three years has been a direct result of the hard work and dedication of this group of seniors. I have thoroughly enjoyed watching this group grow up and develop, not only as players but as young women. They will always be a special part of this program."

Because they are starting from scratch, building a strong program is taking time. Alabama does not have the luxury, as some schools might, to start out slowly. Alabama competes in the Southeastern Conference, and SEC volleyball is big-time. Louisiana State, Florida, Georgia and Kentucky are all national powers. It

doesn't make for an easy slate. The first year back in 1989, Alabama went 13-24. It added two wins and knocked off two losses 1990 with a 15-22 record. Last season the team went 14-18. Alabama moved from no conference wins in 1989 to five in 1991.

Strides are being made. Marta Bickert was an SEC Player of the Week last October after she had a match against Ole Miss where she made 28 kills and hit .500. Alabama has won two tournament titles in three seasons. Hall was voted All-SEC in 1990. Faris, as a freshman, led the SEC in kills with 644 her first year and her teammate, Hall ranked second. Bickert's 383 digs as a freshman last season ranked second in the SEC. Present day Alabama teams are bettering program marks set by past Alabama teams, teams that included the 1977 version which earned five tournament titles and finished ninth in the nation.

Franco-Reed was a member of that 1977 team. It was one of three Crimson Tide volleyball teams that made it to the national championship tournament.



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It is her 1992 team goal to make it to post-season play. The key, she said, will be for Alabama to improve on its blocking and passing game.

"Since passing is the key ingredient in any offensive system, and even more so when the system is complex, precision passing will be a must. Blocking is another area we will rely upon heavily," said Franco-Reed. "From day one, blocking has been a part of our game we have worked very hard on, and now with a returning veteran squad, greater emphasis and higher expectations will be placed in this area. If we can improve significantly in these two areas of our game, we will, without a doubt, have a very successful season."

Alabama's 1992 squad has the potential to make Franco-Reed's dream a reality. Jennifer Miller has already become the school's all-time leader in assists with 3,730 going into her senior season. Andrea Miller's game was limited last season after a serious knee injury curtailed her play. Still, wearing a brace and playing in 51 games, Miller managed to hit .269, not that far from her SEC-leading pace of .345 in 1990. Hall and Faris have figured prominently in the national statistics throughout their careers. Faris lends Alabama exceptional strength in serving. She had 59 aces in 1991. Hall is noted for her kills. She broke the school record



Franco-Reed

by her sophomore year and has 1,454 and counting going into 1992. Hall also holds the program's benchmark in digs and off the court lends prowess academically as a GTE District 4 Academic All-America and a two-time Academic All-SEC honoree.

Sophomore Mavis Reed powered Alabama's blocking game last season, compiling 27 solo blocks in 66 games. Junior Lynn Wondrasek was also adept in making the block, leading the team with 75 blocked shots and 65 block assists. Bickert, a sophomore outside hitter, lends strength in kills and digs. She had a team record 26 digs in a match against Tennessee last year.

Newcomers to Alabama in 1992 include Huntsville's Erin Tenbrunsel who *The Birmingham News* named twice to its all-state team. The setter made the all-tournament team at both the 1990 and 1990 U.S. Volleyball Association regionals. And, looking no farther than its own back yard, Alabama signed 6-2 hitter and setter

Kristin Davis of Tuscaloosa. Davis led Central High School to two area championships. Academically she also excelled, receiving an advanced academic diploma and graduating with honors.

"The overall athleticism of our players is our greatest strength," said Franco-Reed of a team that includes six seniors, two juniors, six sophomores and two freshmen. "The quality of the athletes we have on this team will enable us to run a more sophisticated game plan as well as a more diversified attack. The fans should see some very exciting volleyball this season."

Alabama's 1992 season opens in Tuscaloosa with its own Crimson Tide Classic on September 4-5. Tide football fans in town for the Vanderbilt game can stop by Foster Auditorium Friday night to catch the team's opener at 7 p.m. against Central Florida. Alabama plays Memphis State on Saturday at 1 p.m. and Minnesota at 7 p.m. Saturday.

Tournament stops include the Rice Invitational September 11-12 and the South Florida Invitational September 18-19. The SEC Championships will be held in Birmingham November 27-28.

The Tide hosts 14 home matches this season, seven of those SEC events. Alabama plays all of its home matches in Foster Auditorium and there is no charge for admission.

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TV Update

Most information on televised college football games will come within two weeks of each game. Two Alabama television games (Vanderbilt on September 5 on Jefferson Pilot and Auburn on Thanksgiving Day, November 28, a national telecast on ABC) were announced well before the season and now a third is at least "penciled in." The Alabama-Ole Miss game in Tuscaloosa on October 24 is on the Jefferson Pilot preseason schedule of Southeastern Conference games. That means an 11:40 a.m. kickoff. Jefferson Pilot, which takes over for WTBS as the carrier of Southeastern Conference football games this season, has announced a list of stations throughout the Southeast that will carry its games, and SEC football will also be televised in areas outside the Southeast through Prime Network, which has regional sports cable networks.

Pay-Per-View

Although there have been no official announcements, a representative of the athletics department said that some Alabama games not selected for telecast by ABC, ESPN or Jefferson Pilot would be made available on Pay-Per-View. Tide games on Pay-Per-View are available through most cable systems in the state of Alabama and in some other markets.

Radio Reports

Alabama football game broadcasts are available outside the broadcast area by telephone. For a cost of \$38.95 for three hours, the Alabama Network game may be heard by calling 1-800-225-5403.

Stallings Show

"The Crimson Tide Review," Alabama Head Coach Gene Stallings' 30-minute Sunday television show of the highlights of the previous game, will be transmitted by satellite at 4:30 p.m. central time each Sunday. The transmission will be on Galaxy 6, Transponder 20.

Quarterback Transfers To Bama

Josh Niblett, a former Demopolis Academy high school star quarterback who signed with Southern Mississippi last year, left the Golden Eagles' program in late August and has walked on at Alabama. Niblett is eligible to practice, but not play, this year. Niblett, 6-2, 208, appeared in four games for Southern Miss last year and was listed as the number two quarterback on this year's Golden Eagles' depth chart. He was a dean's list student at Southern Miss. He set a state prep record with 81 career touchdown passes while playing for his father, John Niblett.

Signing Dates

The early one-week signing period for basketball players (and for players in most other sports except football) begins

November 11. (The late signing period will begin April 14.)

Football signing date for high school seniors is February 3.

Wooden Candidate

Alabama junior guard James Robinson is one of 25 candidates for the 1992-93 John R. Wooden Award, presented each year to the top college basketball player. Among other criteria, nominees must have maintained an overall grade point average of at least 2.0. Ten of the nominees will be named All-America. Robinson led Alabama in scoring last year with a 19.4 points per game average. He joins Michael Ansley (1990), Melvin Cheatum (1991) and Robert Horry (1992) as Bama's Wooden Award candidates in the past four years.

Robinson spent part of the summer in Russia, touring with Score International along with upcoming Tide sophomore Jason Caffey. Robinson led the team of American college players in scoring with a 19.7 points per game average, while Caffey was the team's leading rebounder, pulling down 5.8 per game.

Johnson On Tour

Alabama women's basketball team sophomore guard Niesa Johnson was a little late reporting for classes at The University this fall. She spent the final week of August in Mexico with the United States Junior National women's basketball team. Johnson was the nation's Freshman of the Year last season as she averaged 16.3 points, 7.1 rebounds and 5.0 assists per game. In a practice game at the U.S. team's training camp in Colorado Springs, Colorado, Johnson had one game in which she scored 40 points. She is the first Alabama women's player ever named to a national team.

Walters Leaves

Redshirt freshman Russell Walters of Laurel, Mississippi, did not return to the Alabama basketball team. The 6-9 forward transferred to Jones College in Ellisville, Mississippi. He is the second Alabama player from last year's squad not returning. Earlier it had been announced that guard Kenneth Rice had been forced to give up basketball for health reasons.

The departures leave new Bama Head Coach David Hobbs with only 12 scholarship players, five of them newcomers, two of them redshirts. James Robinson has won two letters, Elliot Washington, Andre Perry, Jason Caffey and Cedric Moore one each. Two returning walkons, Phillip Pearson and Jeff Lovell, are on the preseason roster.

Basketball practice begins November 1.

Surgery For Moore

Alabama center Cedric Moore has undergone the third knee surgery of his

Alabama career. Moore, 6-10 sophomore center, is expected to take four to five weeks to rehabilitate.

All Cagers Eligible

All of the new signees for Alabama's men's basketball team are academically eligible and enrolled in The University. There had been some concern about freshman Anthony Brown of St. Petersburg, Florida, because his passing ACT test score was so late in being reported. Brown, 6-6, was rated the nation's fifth best prep small forward by *Sporting News*. And there had been concerns about Bama's two junior college signees, Shon Peck-Love of Tuscaloosa and Three Rivers Community College and Walter Pitts of Loachapoka and Tyler Junior College, because both had to finish up some class work this summer. The other new signees are Wade Kaiser of Birmingham and Marvin Orange of Columbia, South Carolina.

Basketball On TV

Several Alabama basketball games will be televised, either nationally on ESPN cable, or on the Jefferson Pilot network, which is primarily in the Southeast. Bama games scheduled for telecast are:

On ESPN—the January 12 Arkansas game from Fayetteville, the January 19 game against Kentucky from Tuscaloosa, and the February 23 game against LSU in Baton Rouge.

On J-P—the January 16 Ole Miss game in Tuscaloosa, the January 23 Mississippi State game in Starkville, the February 13 Arkansas game in Tuscaloosa, and the February 17 Georgia game in Tuscaloosa. Additionally, the March 6 date is held open for a wild card game by JP and Alabama hosts Mississippi State that day.

Golf Success

Alabama men's golf signees fared well in national competition this summer. Patrick Vadden of Louisville, Kentucky, won the Rolex Tournament of Champions at Roswell, Georgia, with an American Junior Golf Association record score of 279. Vadden had a career-best 66, six-under-par, second round. Another Tide signee, Mayson Petty of Tuscaloosa, finished seventh in the national tournament.

Tide senior Tracy Little, and Liza LaBelle, who completed her eligibility last spring, both qualified for the United States Women's Amateur. Sophomore Jill Donaldson was a quarterfinalist at the Southern Amateur, redshirt freshman Meg Lindsey participated in the Southern and the Western amateurs, and Little, Donaldson, Lindsey, Paige Hoefle and Carrie Allen all competed in the Transatlantic.

Woman Candidate

Katherine Kelleher, who just completed her gymnastics career at Alabama, is one

of 52 candidates for the annual NCAA Woman of the Year Award. Sports journalists selected one woman from each state, plus Washington, D.C., and Puerto Rico, as nominees. Later the list will be pared to 10 finalists and from that the national winner will be named in November. The competition is open to women who have completed NCAA eligibility. Kelleher has won two \$5,000 post graduate academic scholarships, was both an All-America and Academic All-America. Alabama's general scholarship fund will receive a \$5,000 donation because of Kelleher's nomination.

New Netter

Juan Carlos Bianchi is a new member of the Alabama tennis program after transferring from Trevecca-Nazarene in Nashville (which dropped its tennis program). He is the 1992 NAIA Player of the Year after having won 30 straight matches. He is a former Davis Cup player for Venezuela.

Baseball Practice

Alabama Head Baseball Coach Barry Shollenberger has 75 players, 11 of them new signees, expected to participate in fall drills. Four weeks of practice will begin September 21.

Shollenberger announced that returning pitcher Carey Lundstrom was academically ineligible, that backup infielder Kip Ryan had transferred to Jacksonville State, and that freshman signee Pete Demorejon of Miami did not enroll (although he may for the spring semester).

Bryant Museum

The significance of Alabama's celebration of its 100th year of football has not been lost on the Paul W. Bryant Museum on the campus of The University. Special exhibits are on display throughout the year. The museum is open 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Mondays through Saturdays.

Hall Nominees

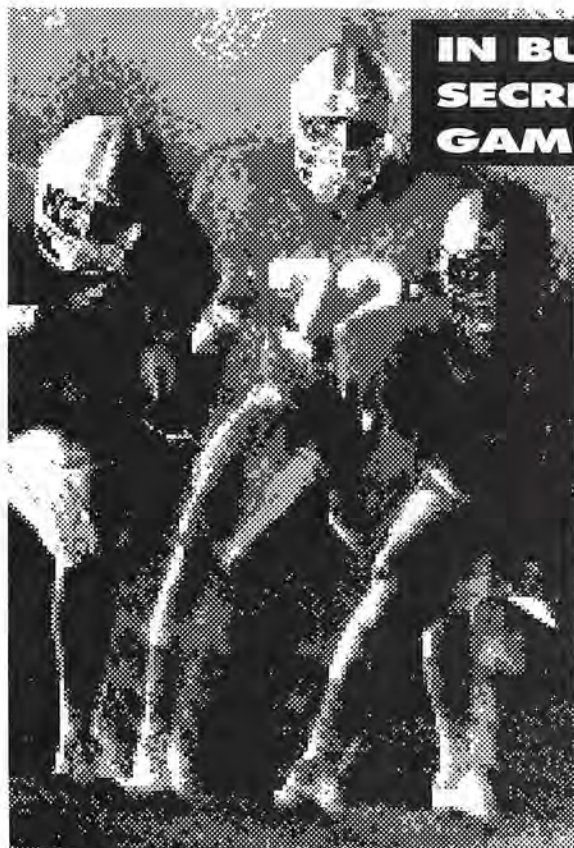
The Alabama Sports Hall of Fame will select its Silver Anniversary class of inductees this year for induction on February 27. The nominees for the 25th class of inductees includes a number with Bama ties. They include in football, Paul Crane, Danny Ford, Scott Hunter, Ed Salem and Hal Self; in basketball, T.R. Dunn, Jerry Harper, Jack Kubiszyn and C.M. Newton; in baseball, Allan Worthington; in the general category, Roberta Allison Baumgardner (tennis), Don Gambriel (swimming), and Barbara Logan (diving); and in the Old Timers category (70 years of age or 40 years since athletic career), Young Boozer (football), Dwight Keith (football coach and publisher, *Coach and Athlete* magazine founder), William Clay Perdue (marksman), Hayden Riley (coach) and Jim Tabor (baseball).

Press Guide

Alabama's 1192 football press guide is available from the Sports Information office. Press guides, which are \$12 each, may be ordered by writing to Media Guide, P.O. Box 870391, Tuscaloosa, AL 35487, with checks payable to University of Alabama.

1993 Tide Basketball Schedule

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
Nov. 17	*Russian-American Select	7:30
Nov. 20	*Ukraine National	7:30
Dec. 1	Wichita State	7:30
Dec. 4	Washing State @ B'ham	7:00
Dec. 12	Southern Miss	1:30
Dec. 19	@ Old Dominion	TBA
Dec. 22	@ Virginia	6:30
	Cable Car Classic	
Dec. 29	Rhode Island	10:30
Dec. 30	Santa Clara or Harvard	TBA
Jan. 2	@ Vanderbilt	7:30
Jan. 4	Tennessee State	7:30
Jan. 6	LSU	7:30
Jan. 9	Texas A&M	1:30
Jan. 12	@ Arkansas	8:40
Jan. 16	Ole Miss	3:00
Jan. 19	Kentucky	8:40
Jan. 23	@ Mississippi State	3:00
Jan. 27	Auburn	7:30
Feb. 1	East Carolina	7:30
Feb. 3	@ Florida	6:30
Feb. 6	@ Tennessee	6:30
Feb. 13	Arkansas	2:00
Feb. 17	Georgia	7:00
Feb. 20	@ Ole Miss	3:00
Feb. 23	@ LSU	8:40
Feb. 27	South Carolina	1:30
March 3	@ Auburn	7:00
March 6	Mississippi State	TBA
	March 11-14 SEC Tournament at Lexington	
	*Exhibition game	
	All times central	



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Schedules of Alabama's '92 Opponents

Team	Sept. 5	Sept. 12	Sept. 19	Sept. 26	Oct. 3	Oct. 10	Oct. 17	Oct. 24	Oct. 31	Nov. 7	Nov. 14	Nov. 21	Nov. 28
VANDERBILT Commodores Nashville, Tenn.	ALABAMA (Tuscaloosa) 11:40 CDT JP TV	Duke	Ole Miss		@ Auburn	Wake Forest	@ Georgia	South Carolina		@ Kentucky	@ Navy	Florida	Tennessee
SOUTHERN MISS Golden Eagles Hattiesburg, Miss.	Memphis State	ALABAMA (Birmingham) 4 CDT	Louisiana Tech	@ Auburn	Tulsa	@ Northern Illinois	Oct. 15 @ Tulane	Cincinnati	Oct. 29 @ East Carolina	@ Florida	@ Virginia Tech		
ARKANSAS Razorbacks Fayetteville, Ark.	The Citadel	@ South Carolina	ALABAMA (Little Rock) 7 CDT	@ Memphis State	Georgia	@ Tennessee	Ole Miss (Little Rock)		@ Auburn	@ Mississippi State		SMU (Little Rock)	LSU
LOUISIANA TECH Bulldogs Ruston, La.	@ Baylor	Eastern Michigan	@ Southern Miss	ALABAMA (Birmingham) 1:30 CDT	@ Fresno State	Southwestern Louisiana	East Tennessee		Arkansas State	@ South Carolina	@ Ole Miss	@ West Virginia	
SOUTH CAROLINA Gamecocks Columbia, S.C.	Georgia	Arkansas	East Carolina	@ Kentucky	ALABAMA (Tuscaloosa) 2:30 CDT		Mississippi State	@ Vanderbilt	Tennessee	Louisiana Tech	@ Florida	@ Clemson	
TULANE Green Wave New Orleans, La.	@ SMU	@ Ole Miss	@ Iowa State	Nevada		ALABAMA 7 CDT	Oct. 15 Southern Miss	Boston College	Memphis State	@ Navy	@ FSU	@ LSU	
TENNESSEE Volunteers Knoxville, Tenn.	Southwestern Louisiana	Sept. 10 @ Georgia	Florida	Cincinnati	@ LSU	Arkansas	ALABAMA TBA		@ South Carolina		@ Memphis State	Kentucky	@ Vanderbilt
OLE MISS Rebels Oxford, Miss.	Auburn	Tulane	@ Vanderbilt	@ Georgia	Kentucky		@ Arkansas (Little Rock)	ALABAMA (Tuscaloosa) 11:40 CDT JP TV	LSU (Jackson)	Memphis State	Louisiana Tech	Mississippi State	
LSU Fighting Tigers Baton Rouge, La.	Texas A&M	Mississippi State	@ Auburn	Colorado State	Tennessee	@ Florida	Kentucky		Ole Miss (Jackson)	ALABAMA TBA		Tulane	@ Arkansas
MISSISSIPPI STATE Bulldogs Starkville, Miss.	@ Texas	@ LSU	@ Memphis State		Oct. 1 Florida	Auburn	@ South Carolina	Arkansas State	@ Kentucky	Arkansas	ALABAMA 1:30 CDT	@ Ole Miss	
AUBURN Tigers Auburn, Ala.	@ Ole Miss	Samford	LSU	Southern Miss	Vanderbilt	@ Mississippi State	@ Florida	Southwestern Louisiana	Arkansas		Georgia		Nov. 26 @ ALABAMA (Birmingham) 12 CST ABC-TV

ALABAMA "CENTURY OF CHAMPIONS"®

Limited to 2,500 Officially Licensed, Serial Numbered Knife Ensembles



(KNIFE ENSEMBLE SHOWN IS A PROTOTYPE AND IS SMALLER THAN ACTUAL SIZE)
"proudly made by skilled craftsmen in the Southeastern U.S.A."

© The University of Alabama, 1991

"Century of Champions" is the official theme and logo of the centennial celebration proposed by a special centennial committee appointed by University President Dr. Roger Sayers, with proceeds from the centennial observance to benefit the University's General Scholarship Fund.

LIMITED QUANTITIES — Only 2,500 Serial Numbered Limited Edition Knife Ensembles Will Be Made!

This rare opportunity to invest in the "Century of Champions" will not last long. Demand will surely exceed the limited supply. **So, act now!!** Imagine being in the select group of owners of this beautiful limited edition knife ensemble made by Bear MGC®, American's "Rising Star" in the knife industry. Become one of the lucky few to own this elegant tribute to the "Century of Champions". Forever it will be a cherished symbol of your pride in the "Century of Champions", a gift to pass down to children and grandchildren, the generation who will forge our next "Century of Champions". **ACT NOW!** Choose it for yourself or for a gift.

HURRY BEFORE THIS LIMITED EDITION — the only edition that will ever be made — SELLS OUT!

Order Today!
1-800-832-5396

The "Century of Champions" Knife Ensemble is a beautiful addition to the most elegantly appointed home or office:

- ★ The knife boasts a crimson smoothbone handle on a Bear MGC 4" Trapper made to exacting standards with over 80 hand processes lavished upon each knife by Bear MGC's artisans. The two blades are deep etched and color filled.
- ★ The display is a Southern-built and hand-processed beauty made of walnut enclosing a rich ebony fabric bed upon which the knife rests, and plexiglass sealed to preserve this Centennial symbol for the century to follow. Tabletop and wall mounting are provided.

* Bear MGC® is a young Alabama Knife Company whose three owners have over 74 years of knifemaking experience. Combining Bear MGC and the "Century of Champions" provides an investment value in the Centennial Celebration. Remember it ain't bragging if you can back it up—Bear MGC can! ★ 1992 — Selected to make and distribute the following: • "Officially Licensed By NASCAR" knives • Knives for most SEC Universities • Knives for each SEC University celebrating a Football Centennial ★ 1992 — Selected to produce "McKenry Brand" knives specifically for Western-minded people and available only where fine Western wear and tack are sold ★ 1992-1993 — Awarded National Knife Collection Association 1992 "Folder" and in 1993 its "Folder" and "Hunter" ★ 1992 — Chosen by its knife industry competition as The Best Buy of the Year

Order Your "Century of Champions" Centennial Knife Today!

Only 2500 Sets Produced! First Come, First Served! Order Today!

- Please accept this order for _____ of the "Century of Champions" Centennial Knives at \$99.99* Each (plus \$6.00 for shipping and handling.) Allow 6 - 8 weeks for delivery.

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Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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Payment Method: ☐ Check ☐ MasterCard ☐ Visa

CREDIT CARD NO.:

EXPIRATION DATE: _____ Signature: _____

* TN Residents add 7.25% State Sales Tax. All coupons must be signed before acceptance.

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U of A CENTENNIAL PLAQUE

1992 marks the celebration of the Centennial Anniversary of the University of Alabama Football program. Our company has been licensed to design and make available a handsome plaque to commemorate the Centennial.

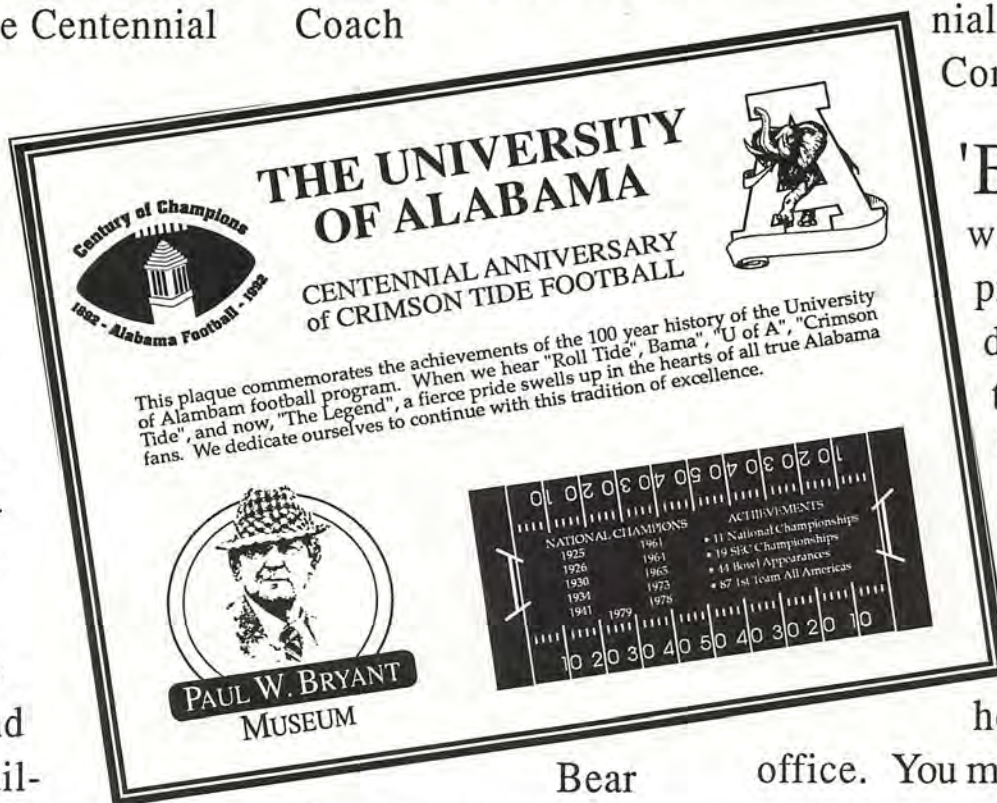
This plaque measures 8" x 10" and contains a

handsome caricature of Coach

Bama and the Centennial Licensing Company.

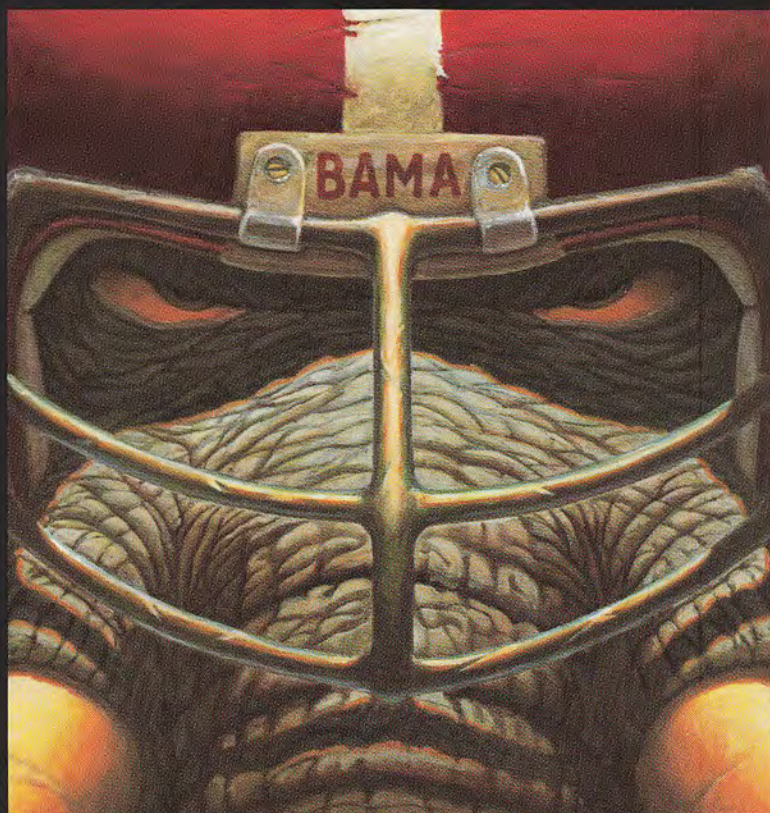
'Bama fans will be proud to display this one of a kind Centennial plaque in their home or

office. You may order your plaque by mail or phone. Just follow the instructions on the order form below and we'll rush your plaque to you as soon as possible.



Bryant. The design and quality of this plaque meets all specifications and is fully licensed by the University of Ala-

SHIPPING INFORMATION			QTY.	TOTAL
NAME			FOOTBALL PLAQUE @ \$24.95 each	
ADDRESS				
CITY	STATE	ZIP		
PHONE			GA residents add 6% tax	
Please complete credit card information. Phone orders call 1-800-272-3510.			SUBTOTAL	
<input type="checkbox"/> VISA <input type="checkbox"/> MC _____ Exp. Date <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>			Shipping/Handling @ \$4.50 for each plaque	
Or send check or money order to: RCC, Inc. P.O. Box 624 Duluth, GA 30136			TOTAL	
Fax: 404-623-4643 or 404-840-7609 OFFICE: 404-497-1810				
ALA-1 Please allow 4 weeks for delivery.				



UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA

“... **T**he Bear may be gone — but the bite is back.” And few images convey the power of Southern football more dramatically than *‘Alabama’*.

The large 19” x 25” full color lithograph is printed with light fast inks on No. 1 embossed, 80lb. archival quality, acid free cover stock. This is truly a unique and beautiful work of art by nationally renowned southern sports artist Michael Montgomery.

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Yes! Please send me _____ print(s) of *ALABAMA*, the officially licensed print of the University of Alabama. **at \$28.50**

Add shipping and handling at \$3.50 each. Total \$32.00*. Georgia residents must add 4% sales tax (\$1.60). Print will be shipped in heavy protective mailing tube.

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Signed and Numbered	\$78.50		\$
GA residents add 4% sales tax			\$
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Announcing the 1992 Toyota Leadership Program. For the eighth year, Toyota is proud to sponsor a unique awards program. A program which recognizes the fact that there's more to college football players than just what you see on Saturday afternoons. The Toyota Leadership Award honors collegians who excel in both athletics and scholastics—and still manage to find the time to help out in their communities.

So tune in to college action this season on ESPN's CFA Primetime Football. During the telecasts, a player from each team will receive the award. In addition, Toyota will donate \$1000 to both schools' general scholarship funds. So even more college students will have the opportunity to *"I love what you do for me."* learn how to balance the books.

